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Clinton foes seek grand jury video

By news agencies

WASHINGTON – Congressional Republicans pushed yesterday for release of the videotape of US President Bill Clinton's grand jury testimony about Monica Lewinsky, as the White House beefed up its effort to head off impeachment.

The White House announced that Clinton will receive weekly spiritual counselling to hold him "accountable for his behavior" and resist "temptations that have conquered him in the past."

The counselling comes as Clinton tries to steer a two-track strategy of public contrition and legal hardball to remain in office. He has repeatedly apologized for the affair with Lewinsky and asked the public for forgiveness. At the same time, he has dispatched his lawyers to vigorously resist independent counsel Kenneth Starr's report on the affair and possible impeachable offenses.

In the House of Representatives, several members of the Judiciary Committee and its staff went to a guarded room near the Capitol to review 17 boxes of evidence that Starr said supports his claim Clinton committed possible impeachable offenses during the affair with the former White House intern.

The committee is expected to meet in closed session today or tomorrow to begin deciding how much more should be made available to a public that, according to polls, has said it has had enough already.

Sen. Frank Murkowski, an Alaska Republican, said Clinton should reimburse Americans for the costs of the Lewinsky part of the Starr inquiry, which was delayed for seven months by the president's refusal to admit his behavior.

"As a result of the president's plan of public deception, the investigation of independent counsel Starr has been unnecessarily prolonged," Murkowski said on the Senate floor. "Equity demands that the costs of the delays should be borne by the president and not the taxpayers."

According to Murkowski, the cost of the Lewinsky part of Starr's probe was estimated at $4.4 million.

See CLINTON, Page 3



President Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary, arrive at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington yesterday. They flew in from New York on Air Force One. (AP)

Ross winds up visit

Rubin: No agreement in sight

By HILLEL KUTTLER and DANNA HARMAN

US envoy Dennis Ross will likely return to Washington empty-handed at the week's end, State Department spokesman James Rubin indicated yesterday.

Rubin said Ross would report to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who would consult President Bill Clinton on the next US move.

With the end of Ross's mission in sight, and still no progress reported, the sides are beginning to up the accusations against each other – with both wondering out loud if the other really wants to reach a deal.

"Let me just say that Ambassador Ross continues his work," Rubin told reporters. "He's in meetings on all aspects of this and I would expect him to be returning toward the end of the week, and making some recommendations to the secretary and through her to the president about what we should do next."

He said Israel and the PA still have crucial issues to resolve and are not on the verge of a redeployment agreement.

"I am not expecting an imminent breakthrough. On the contrary, there is an enormous amount of work going on," Rubin said. "There is a lot of work to do. And there are a series of issues, much of which will come as no surprise to you, that need to be worked out in detail in order for us to complete the interim package that we are trying to complete so that [we] can move directly to final-status talks.

"That includes how much land would be turned over, what kind of land would be turned over, which land will be turned over. It includes a concrete program to fight terrorism, to front-load that program so that the security gets the sine qua non status that we've long called for."

See ROSS, Page 2

Local authorities strike continues

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The strike by local authority workers enters its second day today, after negotiations last night failed to bring about a resolution.

Workers' representatives warned that the strike would worsen if demands for a one-time 30 percent bonus are not met, but refused to divulge which sectors would be affected, saying they prefer to "surprise" the public.

Talks among representatives of the Histadrut, local authorities, and the Treasury were renewed yesterday evening, but broke down after some five hours of negotiations.

Meanwhile, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert agreed to his workers' demands and by noon some staff members had returned to their jobs.

CPI up 0.5%, Page 13

Others declared they would strike for one day in solidarity with their counterparts in other parts of the country.

The Histadrut's action committee convened late last night to discuss which sectors would be affected today by the strike. According to reports, day-care centers, Kupat Holim clinics, and institutes of higher learning are joining the strike today.

Workers warned that the strike would intensify if the Treasury does not agree to demands for a one-time bonus equal to 30% of workers' salaries as retroactive compensation for wage erosion. The Treasury signed a deal to this effect with workers last week, ending the Histadrut general strike.

See STRIKE, Page 2

Viagra goes on sale today

By JUDY SIEGEL

Viagra, the much-touted anti-impotence pill, goes on sale in pharmacies today – but only with a doctor's prescription. The price, set by the Health Ministry, is NIS 48.50 per pill which is about NIS 10 more than the $10-per-pill price in the US.

A major pharmacy chain said yesterday that in expectation of great demand, all of its branches will be open tonight until midnight.

For several months, until the ministry licensed Viagra, it could be purchased by personal import, after a doctor filled out a special form with details about the patient's condition that was reviewed by the district pharmacist. Now, this has become unnecessary, and any licensed physician can prescribe it.

However, the doctor must do a medical workup to make sure that the patient really suffers from impotence and does not also have heart disease or hypertension. If he takes certain drugs, such as nitroglycerin, Viagra could be dangerous. The US has recorded over 70 deaths by Viagra.

See VIAGRA, Page 2

Diaspora Jewry could drop by half in a generation

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

While most of world Jewry enjoy a high degree of personal safety, equal rights, and influence in their communities, assimilation rates are continuing to climb and the Diaspora Jewish population could drop by half in a generation, according to a World Jewish Congress study.

The annual pre-Rosh Hashana study put the total number of Jews worldwide at about 13.5 million, with the US still home to the largest population – 5.6 million. However, Israel, expected to have 4.9 million Jews by the end of the coming Jewish year, will become the largest Jewish community within a few years, the report said.

Of the 13.5 million, about one million are Orthodox.

WJC director Dr. Avi Becker noted that developments in Jewish history sometimes "reject demographic trends."

"Right now assimilation is something that worries Jewish communities around the world, and the concept of Jewish continuity is the motto in many of them, but I think it's been proven that there are forces in Jewish society which can come and really change these trends," he said. He noted that there is a "polarization" in many communities, with growing assimilation but also increasing "haredization."

Some Orthodox Jews "are really going outside the mainstream of the community and are no longer part and parcel of it," he said. This is sometimes to meet their religious needs, "but it goes beyond this, because many haredim around the world are no longer part of the day-to-day life of the Jewish community."

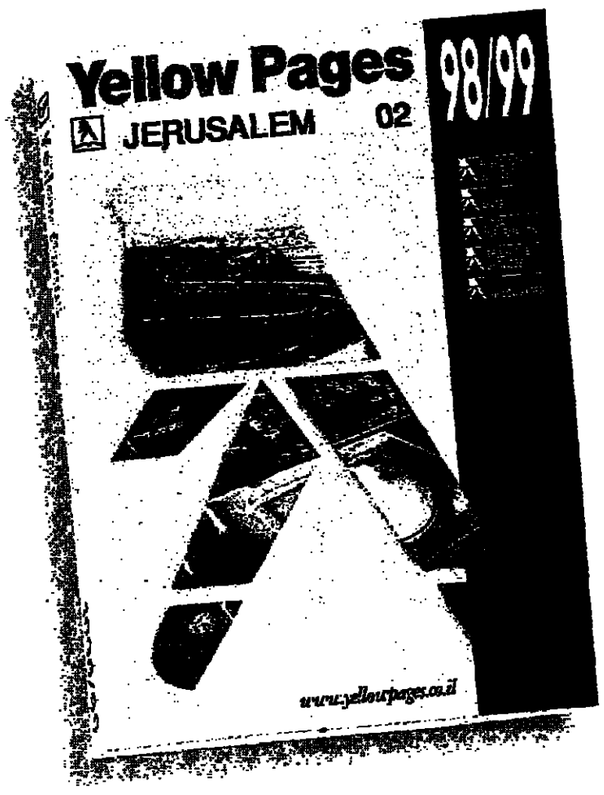
In many communities, the situation is paradoxically "good for the Jews, but bad for Judaism," Becker said, with Diaspora Jews' outstanding success in their home communities in various fields leading to increased assimilation.

"This is part of the success story of world Jewry today," Becker said. "Jews are so much accepted, it is so popular to be Jewish in so many communities, particularly in North America, that we are being hugged by the society around us. They accept us and we enjoy equal opportunity, sometimes even more than that, so we are not looking anymore for our separate identities. This is the interesting dialectic of modern emancipation. For us as Jews, the biggest challenge today is how to maintain a Jewish life in a post-emancipated society in the West."

According to the report, anti-semitism is down worldwide. Interest in the Holocaust peaked with the reports in the past year regarding the looting of Jewish assets by the Nazis and their sympathizers, and the Swiss bank accounts story.

See WJC, Page 3

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NEWS

in brief

Court expected to sentence Har-Shefi today

Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court is expected today to sentence Margalit Har-Shefi, 23, who was convicted last June of failing to prevent the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin on November 4, 1995. Har-Shefi, a friend of Rabin's assassin Yigal Amir, faces up to two years in prison.

Tel Aviv Magistrate Nira Lidski said in her conviction ruling three months ago that Har-Shefi knew Amir had been stalking Rabin for months. "The facts in this case do not establish that she knew in advance about the murder," Har-Shefi's lawyer, Yosef Elon, said, adding that his client would appeal the conviction. "Even the judge's decision doesn't say she knew in advance. It says she should have suspected it based on things she heard." *Reuters*

Terror suspects remands extended

Beit El Military Court yesterday extended the remand of seven members of the Abu Moussa faction recently arrested by the General Security Service in the Hebron area.

They are accused of belonging to an hostile organization and carrying out terrorist activities. The suspects are Ibrahim Abu Salak, Jamal Hassan Sarhin, Hassin Alhieh, Wahba Albradayah, Ibrahim Salamin, Hassan Arar, and Ibrahim Hemidat. The court extended the remand of six of the suspects until the end of legal procedures and the seventh for 10 days. *Margot Dudkevitch*

Baram declines to join PM at UN

MK Uzi Baram (Labor) yesterday declined Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's invitation to join him at the UN General Assembly to protest the stalled peace process.

It is customary for the prime minister to invite MKs from the opposition and coalition to accompany him for his annual speech to the assembly. The two MKs invited this time were Baram and Yehuda Lankri (Gesher).

Baram, who is in the US said that "I turned the invitation down to express my protest about the peace process. I am not prepared to stand beside the prime minister and pretend there is unity of opinion about this issue. You can't criticize Netanyahu and at the same time come with him to political meetings." *Michal Yudelman*

Saudi crown prince, Blair discuss Mideast peace

British Prime Minister Tony Blair welcomed Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah to his Downing Street residence yesterday at the start of a lengthy tour by the heir apparent to King Fahd. A spokesman for Blair, who visited Saudi Arabia last April, said they had "an extremely good, warm, positive discussion" lasting around 50 minutes, followed by lunch.

Blair's spokesman said they agreed on the need for the Middle East peace process to move forward urgently to an interim agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. *Reuters*

Grapes of Wrath group discusses complaints

The Grapes of Wrath monitoring group convened at UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura yesterday to discuss two complaints from Israel and one from Lebanon over breaches of the understandings during recent fighting in south Lebanon. Israel protested over the firing of mortars from Kabrikha and Jaba, north of the zone last Wednesday and Thursday. *David Rudge*

UNRWA workers strike

Thousands of employees of the UN Relief and Works Agency, which assists Palestinian refugees, staged a one-day strike yesterday, closing schools and clinics across the Middle East.

The workers are demanding pay raises and other benefits which they say have been delayed for years. UNRWA's management has repeatedly warned during the past 18 months that its growing budget shortfall was forcing it to implement austerity cuts. UNRWA Commissioner-General Peter Hansen said in March that donor nations had given the agency only $237 million to meet this year's $314 million budget.

Some 5,000 UNRWA workers were reported to be on strike and about 1,000 attended a rally outside the agency's head office in Gaza City. However, UNRWA's staff at health clinics and in the ambulance service in the Gaza Strip did report for work. UNRWA workers also struck in Lebanon, Syrian, and Jordan. *AP*

Man remanded for credit card fraud

Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday remanded for four days a gas station attendant suspected of NIS 30,000 credit-card fraud. The attendant, 21, of Beit Hanina, charged drivers' credit cards twice: once through the electronic credit card machine and once through the manual, hand-held machine. He then passed the slips to a clothing store owner in Ramallah, who made other charges to the credit cards. The attendant received a percentage. *Amy Klein*

Weizman decries lack of tolerance

President, PM condemn growing violence in society



President Ezer Weizman and Supreme Court President Aharon Barak attend yesterday's gathering to mark the jubilee of Israel's judiciary. (Brian Hendler)

By BATSHEVA TSUR

President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon were united yesterday in condemning the growing violence from within Israeli society.

Addressing a festive Jubilee gathering at the Supreme Court of prominent figures in the legal establishment, Weizman said: "At a time when the state is marking its 50th anniversary, it is disconcerting to see the lack of tolerance... and the worrisome rise in crime and violence."

He said he was concerned about the verbal attacks on Supreme Court justices and that "these should not be taken lightly."

Netanyahu voiced concern over the future fabric of the nation, saying that social values were being threatened not by outside terror but "by political groups or criminals that are prepared to commit a crime..."

Israel's social fabric could be destroyed "as soon as we give in to threats [from such groups] against judges or policemen," he warned.

"This is no less of a threat to our existence than terror from outside our borders." Nevertheless, the prime minister said, the legal system "enjoys the trust of the vast majority of the citizens. If anyone says that this [legal] system belongs to any one group – he is mistaken," Netanyahu stressed.

"A judge cannot be proud, but Israel should be proud of its judges," he added.

Tichon said he is "concerned that certain strata, including those at the public level, say that the courts do not represent them."

"Such attacks undermine our democracy... We must condemn in the strongest terms threats against our judges. Criticism is valid but violence and insults are not," he said.

For his part, Supreme Court President Aharon Barak defended the courts' right to rule in matters of political concern.

"Many of the legal decisions – such as whether the dismissal of the government or a minister by a prime minister are justified; or whether the closing of a road on Shabbat is justified; or whether the removal of immunity from an MK is justified and numerous others, have political implications," he said.

"But this does not mean that there is no need – or rather, obligation – to rule in such cases. Otherwise we could not protect civil rights, or the rule of law, or the separation of authorities," Barak added.

Settler accused of shooting Palestinian youth

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Police are investigating Palestinian claims that a settler shot and lightly injured 16-year-old Mohammed Musa Dweik yesterday at noon.

Judea and Samaria Police spokesman Opher Sivan said Palestinian Police reported the incident to the District Coordinating Office in Bethlehem shortly after it occurred. Sivan said police were planning to question Dweik last night. Dweik was hospitalized in Jerusalem's Mokassed Hospital with a gunshot wound to the leg.

According to reports, Palestinian youths at a school in the village of Zatara, which is near the settlement of Tekoa, were stoning passing Israeli vehicles. Palestinian sources claim that a settler got out of his car and fired shots towards the youths and then fled the area.

Palestinian witnesses gave the Israel Police a partial description of the vehicle and Sivan said police are searching the area and questioning witnesses.

"It is very difficult to investigate an incident acting on partial information that is received after the incident occurred," Sivan said.

Palestinian sources claim that following the incident, IDF troops at the site clashed with youths who were throwing stones. The sources claim that IDF troops dispersed the youths with tear gas and one youth suffered from gas inhalation.

Olmert gives from richer municipal workers to poor

By AMY KLEIN

The Jerusalem Municipality juggled its budget yesterday, forcing senior workers to take a six percent salary cut and granting low-paid employees a 10% raise as of their September paychecks.

Mayor Ehud Olmert met with union chairman Danny Bonfield to forge the agreement, which is unrelated to local council strikes around the country. Olmert said that, if he is reelected, he will take a 2% cut in addition to the 6% cut agreed yesterday.

The average salary cut for a worker earning between NIS 5,000 and NIS 6,000 was NIS 165 per month, or NIS 1,980 per year from an annual NIS 60,000 salary.

The salary of senior workers – those who make over NIS 12,500 per month – will be cut by 6 percent.

Municipality workers who make between NIS 8,000 - NIS 12,500 will take a 5% cut; those who make between NIS 6,000 - NIS 8,000, a 4% cut; and those who make between NIS 5,000 - NIS 6,000, a 3% cut.

Fire department deputy commander Tashri Rahamim, a senior worker, said he accepts the cut. "The money is going to the poor workers," he said. "What can I do?"

Some 5,000 senior workers will see smaller paychecks for the next year, saving the municipality an estimated NIS 22 million.

Municipality workers with a salary under NIS 5,000 – such as secretaries, janitors, and academics – will receive a 10% raise, according to the agreement. The number of employees receiving a raise and the cost to the municipality were not available.

The NIS 22 million will be used for development projects, parks, roads, and other projects throughout the capital.

"Since the municipality does not receive the budget it needs and deserves from the government, the municipality has undertaken activities to create savings," said the mayor's spokesman, Haggai Elias, also citing a freeze on municipality hiring and a collection crackdown on municipal rates. Jerusalem's budget deficit stands at approximately NIS 1 billion.

The municipal union chairman is satisfied with the agreement. "I'm happy because they took from the rich and gave to the poor," Bonfield said.

Youth group: Change in funding violates law

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy was accused yesterday of changing the criteria for funding for youth movements, removing references to "Zionist" youth groups and their duty to promote service in the IDF, so that haredi youth groups could be granted funds previously earmarked exclusively for Zionist youth groups.

A spokesman for Noar Ha'oved V'halomed told Channel 2 that Levy had changed the criteria in a bid to circumvent a High Court ruling earlier this year which barred youth groups which do not openly encourage IDF service from getting such funds.

An Education Ministry spokesman admitted that the criteria had been changed, but said this was only done to comply with the High Court's ruling.

"The elements which had prevented the haredi groups from being included were removed," he said. "The High Court said that unless we changed the criteria, we couldn't continue to fund the haredi groups out of these funds. We have to fund them, or they will go to the High Court and demand this – and win. So to find a way out, they changed the criteria, but are not harming the Zionist youth groups."

The spokesman said the funding for the groups "comes from two different pies, as it did until now." He said the Zionist groups' budgets would even increase by some NIS 7 million this year.

Moshe Yisraeli, chairman of the Young Maccabi organization, said last night that he believed Levy had simply created "another category" of youth groups to allow the haredi bodies to receive funding.

Arafat to Awadallahs: PA had no hand in deaths

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has told the Awadallah family that the Palestinian Authority did not cooperate with Israel in locating and killing Adel and Imad Awadallah, who were wanted as Hamas terrorists by Israeli security forces.

Arafat was accompanied by Palestinian Legislative Council member Hatem Abdul Qader while meeting the Awadallah family in Ramallah on Monday night.

The meeting was described as friendly and Awadallah family members expressed support for Arafat and did not repeat accusations that the PA helped Israel track down the brothers.

Abdel Qader told the Awadallah family that he has asked PA officials to insist that the bodies of Adel and Imad be returned for burial. But Israeli authorities insisted on burying the brothers on the grounds that a funeral would trigger violence.

Minister for Civilian Affairs Jamil Tarifi said he had been told by the Defense Ministry that the Awadallah brothers would be buried in a cemetery for Palestinian terrorists. He said he sent a protest against the Israeli action.

PA security officials insisted they had no role in the Awadallah killings. PA Preventive Security Apparatus chief in Gaza, Col. Mohammed Dahlan said Israel is solely responsible for the killings near the Hebron-area village of Tarkumiya.

"The PA cannot be responsible for the crises that will be produced on the Israeli side," Dahlan said, referring to Hamas threats of revenge.

Dahlan's West Bank counterpart, Col. Jibril Rajoub, was even more adamant.

Palestinian sources said he was incensed by a Sunday night Channel 1 report on the Arabic news about Hamas accusations that he was involved in the Awadallah killing. He telephoned the station and threatened that unless his denial was broadcast he would prevent Israeli television journalists from entering PA areas, the sources added. A Rajoub denial was later broadcast.

ROSS

Continued from Page 1

An increasing number of Israeli officials are accusing Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat of stalling for time. According to the officials, Arafat is holding up progress so as to be able to attack Israel at next week's UN General Assembly session, and deny Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu the opportunity of presenting himself to the world body as a peace maker.

"If Arafat wants an agreement, he'll get one quickly" Netanyahu told reporters in Jerusalem. "This is decision time."

Palestinian officials dismiss the accusation, saying that it is Netanyahu who is playing games. "Basically, we are now talking just to talk," said negotiator Hassan Asfour. "Nothing is going on. Nothing is moving. We are stuck because Netanyahu has yet to decide if it is in his interest to move forward or not. We are ready when he is."

Asfour called upon Ross to publicly blame Israel for the deadlock.

Former Palestinian cabinet member Hanan Ashrawi said it is time for the Palestinians to stop attending "useless meetings," and instead focus their energies on preparing for statehood. "I have no hope whatsoever that a breakthrough with the Israeli government can be reached," said Ashrawi. "Arafat cannot save the peace singlehandedly, and so it is time for us to go forward ourselves."

One top Israeli official said this kind of thinking is like shooting oneself in the foot. "They will wait until May 1999 and then declare statehood unilaterally, saying: 'We did everything possible,'" he said. "But, they are overlooking an important fact: We are their partners, and they need to work with us. Otherwise nothing will work for them."

Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmed Qurei seemed to agree with the official. "Of course we want to talk. Of course we want an agreement. Does it make sense that we would want to declare statehood, but would not want land?" he said.

Arafat, speaking to reporters in Ramallah, said that negotiations must continue. "We insist on peace, a peace of the brave, a fair and comprehensive peace," he said.

Arafat is scheduled to travel to Cairo today for consultations with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Ross, who is planning to stay in the region until Friday, is scheduled to make a short trip to Jordan today to brief Crown Prince Hassan. Ross will then hold yet another round of talks with Arafat and Netanyahu before returning to Washington.

Meanwhile, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, who has avoided voicing his opinion on the current negotiations, met with Palestinian Minister of Trade Maher Masri yesterday. The two discussed Jordanian interest in increasing exports to the PA, and Israeli-Palestinian economic cooperation.

VIAGRA

Continued from Page 1

A minority of healthy men complain of headaches, temporary changes in color vision, and other side effects after taking Viagra. Women who have been unaccustomed to sex could develop vaginal and urinary infections when their partners suddenly become potent, doctors warn.

Although some men are reportedly ready to sue the Health Ministry to get Viagra included in the basket of health services, the ministry is very reluctant, given the precarious state of the public health system's finances.

Reuters adds:

The European Union gave its blessing to Viagra yesterday, saying it could now be prescribed in its 15 member countries. EU Industry Commissioner Martin Bangemann signed the decision in Strasbourg.

STRIKE

Continued from Page 1

Treasury officials said yesterday they would be willing to give local authority workers a 27.5% payment.

Leon Morozovsky, head of the Histadrut Clerks Union, accused the Treasury of violating a collective agreement.

"It is a shame the strike is on the eve of the holidays and I regret to say that at this point it appears the strike will continue," he said before negotiations broke up last night.

Union of Local Authorities Chairman Adi Eldar said he supports the workers' demands, adding that it is inconceivable that their wages remain so low. He also called on the workers to end the strike as soon as possible in order to put an end to the public's suffering.

Some 100,000 local authority workers walked off the job yesterday.

The strike affected all municipal services, including kindergarten teachers' aides, administrative staff in schools, lifeguards, local religious councils, transportation of schoolchildren, and special education services.

Emergency and rescue service staffers worked according to a Shabbat schedule.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Annual scholarship distribution. Visiting Rotarians are welcome.

RUTH AND DAVID POSHER wish everyone a Happy New Year and would like to announce the engagement of Tzvia and Shlomie.

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A new immigrant from Uzbekistan, Simion Kogan, greets Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, while Uzbek President Islam Karimov (center) looks on. Karimov and Kogan, who moved to Israel six years ago, are old friends. (Brian Hendler)

Mordechai: We're in Lebanon for the long haul

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

All it takes is a responsible partner willing to enforce security in south Lebanon and Israel would be willing to take risks and withdraw its forces from that country, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday.

But, he added, such a partner is hard to find and the IDF is in for a long haul in Lebanon.

"We are looking everywhere for a partner to reach a security agreement that will remove the IDF from Lebanon, but will prevent the continuation of violence and terror along the northern border," Mordechai said. He was speaking at the annual memorial service for fallen Givati Brigade soldiers at the bullet-ridden fortress of Metzudat Yoav in the northern Negev.

"All we are asking for is a commitment from an authorized and responsible body that will be in charge of security in the South," he added. "If such a body is found willing to sign a security agreement with us, then we will take the risks and take our boys and children from south Lebanon."

The ceremony was attended by top IDF commanders as well as families of the 109 soldiers who have fallen since the legendary Givati Brigade was reestablished in 1983. So far this year two Givati soldiers have fallen in Lebanon – Nikolai Rappaport and Assaf Rosenfeld.

"The hand of time won't touch them. They will remain forever young," said Rosenfeld's father, Udi. "All parents, friends, and brothers had dreams for them. They themselves had their own yearnings. But now, we parents mourn this unnatural loss."

Mordechai told the gathering that, even though Israel is searching for a solution to get out of Lebanon, the IDF would remain there "to fight for many more days in order to ensure the security of the North and the security of the citizens of the state everywhere."

Speaking earlier this week to military reporters, Mordechai said his initiative to arrange an IDF withdrawal from south Lebanon based on UN Security Council Resolution 425 has not disappeared, although it has not yet borne fruit. Defense officials have said the Lebanese government is open to the idea of Resolution 425, but that Damascus is blocking it.

"From the very first day it was clear to us that an agreement is dependent on Syrian involvement," Mordechai said. "We are trying to make the Syrians see that such a move does not contradict their interests, but the Syrians feel otherwise and are doing all they can in an effort to keep the initiative from bearing results."

Uzbek leader, Netanyahu pledge to fight fundamentalism

By DANNA HARMAN

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Uzbek President Islam Kariov affirmed yesterday they intend to work together to fight growing fundamentalism and arms proliferation in the region.

"We see eye to eye on the different challenges and dangers facing peace and stability in the region, and we intend to work together to achieve larger goals," said Netanyahu. He said Israel's relationship with Uzbekistan – a country of 23 million Moslems that neighbors Iran – was "natural and justified."

Kariov has, on several occasions in the past, been a strong voice in Central Asia speaking out about the dangers of radical Islam, and against Iran reaching nuclear capability.

In his remarks yesterday, he stressed economic ties. "The goal of this visit is to set up trade cooperation and build a base for strengthening our relations," Kariov said.

Netanyahu said the countries need to work together against common threats, but neither leader would specify just what sort of cooperation was intended.

The sides signed bilateral agreements in agriculture, environment, health, technology and taxes.

Arrow to be deployed next year

By DANNA HARMAN

It is expected that the Arrow antiballistic missile will be operational by the middle of next year, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday, following Monday's successful test. The cabinet, he said, had voted to greatly increase spending to provide a strategic answer to the threat of ballistic missiles.

Speaking about the danger of "impoverished, backward, fanatical," regimes arming themselves with ballistic missiles, Netanyahu stressed the importance of all "peace loving counties" investing in finding technological answers to the threat.

"Such regimes... using technology flowing from the remnants of the Soviet Union... cause a danger – whether in North Korea or Iran or elsewhere – to the peace and stability of their regions, and ultimately to the entire world," he said.

Hizbullah, Hamas could pay cost of Iran, Taleban crisis

ANALYSIS

By DAVID KIRKE

A military clash between Iran and Afghanistan's Taleban – the main rivals for the fundamentalist Islamic revolutionary crown – could have certain advantages for Israel, according to a leading expert on relations between the two Moslem countries.

"The repercussions would undoubtedly be positive from Israel's point of view if what is viewed as one of Israel's most bitter enemies were to become embroiled in a war in the east," Dr. Soli Shahvar said.

"A protracted confrontation might also lead to Iran having to cut some of its assistance to Hizbullah and other Islamic-orientated organizations hostile to Israel," he said.

Shahvar, who lectures on Iranian affairs, stressed, however, that the prospect of a confrontation between Iran and Afghanistan is still uncertain.

A great deal, he said, would depend on the Taleban and events on the ground, as well as whether the pragmatic attitude of President Mohammed Khatami and his government would prevail over the ideological reasoning of supreme Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the fundamentalists.

"The pragmatists, I believe, would probably prefer a negotiated solution to a confrontation which would disrupt efforts to rebuild the economy and improve the living standards of the people.

"Khamenei and the fundamentalists, on the other hand, feel they have to defend Iran's national pride following what they see as the massacre of Iranian diplomats by Taleban fighters when the latter captured the mainly Shi'ite city of Mazar-i Sharif last week."

Shahvar noted that the Taleban, like most Afghans, are Sunni Moslems and that Shi'ite Moslems, who are the majority in Iran, are a minority in Afghanistan.

"Only on Monday another Shi'ite stronghold, the home of the Hizb-i Wahdat Islami group, which has been publicly supported by Khamenei, was overrun by the Taleban.

"The failed Afghan policy on the part of Khamenei in supporting this group might provide another reason for causing an escalation that could lead to war.

"In fact a war, from the point of view of the Iranian fundamentalists, could prove timely in diverting attention away from domestic problems and the efforts of the reformists.

"Furthermore, Iran itself cannot ignore its image and role as the protector of the Shi'ites being shaken by the Sunni fundamentalists without some form of retaliation. It might also give the Iranian fundamentalists an opportunity to try and export their Shi'ite revolutionary message to the Shi'ite communities in Afghanistan."

Iran invaded Afghanistan in 1835 and again 1854, but was forced to withdraw on both occasions because of British intervention. Even before then, Iran coveted western Afghanistan and saw the provinces there as being part of what was then Persia. Iran could once again have territorial ambitions on its northern neighbor, he said.

"A major factor that could help avert a confrontation between Iran and the Taleban, which now controls 90 percent of Afghanistan, would be the intervention of the super or regional powers or interested parties. So far this has not happened," Shahvar added.

Full report, Page 7

Lockheed submits $2b. F-16 proposal

By STEVE RODAN

Lockheed Martin has submitted a detailed proposal to the air force for a $2 billion sale of more than 50 advanced F-16 fighters in the final stretch of its competition against Boeing's F-15I, industry sources said yesterday.

The sources said the F-16s will consist of Block 50 jets with conformal fuel tanks and advanced radar that will allow them to operate at ranges of close to 1,000 kilometers. In addition, the US Air Force is testing new standoff weapons that could be eventually installed on both the new F-16s and those already in the IAF fleet.

Some of the improvements, such as the longer range, will become standard in new F-16s and Israel will not be charged for their full cost, executives said. They said the conformal fuel tank would eventually become an option for many of the aircraft in Israel's existing fleet of 260 F-16s bought over the last 20 years.

"We're leveraging this into our offer," said William McHenry, vice president of Lockheed Martin Tactical Aircraft Systems, who like other company executives refused to detail the proposal to the Defense Ministry.

In presentations to the Defense Ministry scheduled to begin today, Lockheed Martin executives are expected to pledge that at least 25 percent of the F-16s will contain indigenous subsystems. This will include electronic warfare components, data link communications, and computer systems.

Boeing executives have been in Tel Aviv this week and have submitted their proposal to the Defense Ministry and IAF.

Still, Lockheed Martin executives and defense sources agreed that several key questions remain unanswered. One example is the radar that will be installed on the F-16. Defense Ministry Director-General Ilan Biran has pressed that the system be produced by Elta Electronics Industries. The result would be an locally produced radar, developed together with Lockheed Martin Ocean Radars & Sensors Systems, that would be superior to the radars now found on the F-16.

The US Defense Department, however, has rejected that request and the manufacturer of the F-16 radar, Northrop Grumman, has proposed the new Agile Beam Radar, which will be a prime feature in the $7 billion sale of 80 F-16s to the United Arab Emirates.

But Lockheed Martin executives said the Agile Beam Radar has not been offered to Israel in the current F-16 proposal. Instead, the radar being submitted is an improved version of APG-68 radar currently used in the US Air Force.

"Right now, there are issues between the two governments that prevent the Elta radar [from being integrated with the F-16]," McHenry said. "This will have to be resolved at a higher level."

Another part of the proposal by the two manufacturers is cooperation with local industry. Boeing and Lockheed Martin submitted first drafts of their proposals in New York earlier this month, but Israeli officials have asked for several revisions that would allow cooperation between the two aerospace giants and small local hi-tech companies.

Defense sources following the competition think that the IAF will recommend buying both planes, leaving the question of finance to the Defense Ministry. The IAF is said to want to acquire another 25 F-15Is for a total of 50. With Boeing offering an F-15I at about $55 million, this would leave about $1 billion for the purchase of F-16s.

The Defense Ministry is prepared to spend up to $2.5 billion for the acquisition.

"This is not a competition between the F-15 and the F-16," an industry source involved in the competition said. "The IAF wants both planes. The competition is over money."

Is the Arrow cost-effective?

ANALYSIS

By GERALD M. STEINBERG

The successful test of the Arrow 2 ballistic missile defense system was a big gamble that paid off. The previous test, in August 1997, failed when the missile went off course shortly after launch, and before that, a fire in the storage and production facility did major damage.

Nevertheless, the Defense Ministry decided to skip to the next stage and proceed with the initial schedule. The celebration in the control room reflected the achievement of producing one of the most technically complex and advanced systems in the world.

The Arrow launch took place in the shadow of Iranian test of the Shihab 3 missile in late July, which contributed to its importance. By the time that Iran is able to deploy its missiles, Israel should have three operational Arrow batteries. These will provide much better protection than the now discredited Patriot, even in upgraded form, and will force military planners in the region to act with greater caution in threatening to strike Israel.

In Washington, the successful test of the Arrow is a vindication of the substantial US financial and technical support. The Americans have had a great deal of trouble in their own anti-missile programs, and US aid paid two-thirds of the R&D costs of the Arrow. Some officials now believe that the US may decide to buy and deploy batteries to defend bases and troops in Korea and Europe.

At the same time, the useful lifetime of the Arrow may be limited. As long as Iraq, Iran, Syria, and other countries use Scud-based missiles (based on technology from the 1950s or earlier), the Arrow should be effective. However, as more advanced offensive missiles are obtained, a more advanced system will be needed. Work has begun on Boost-Phase Intercept (BPI), which will seek to destroy attacking missiles as they are being launched, rather than as the warheads reach their targets. Then, the Arrow will become a backup system, for use in the cases in which BPI fails.

Critics, including many inside the Israeli defense establishment, warn against being carried away by the technological success. The Arrow is a very costly system, that diverts resources from other important programs, including strategic deterrence. Its coverage is limited, and in an extended attack, some warheads are likely to get through. Despite the successes of this test, or perhaps as a direct result of these achievements, the Israeli debate on missile defense is only beginning.

The writer is a senior associate at Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies.

WJC

Continued from Page 1

Jews today are found in more than 100 countries, the report said. Large communities include France (600,000), Russia (400,000), Canada (360,000), Ukraine (280,000), Great Britain (280,000), and Argentina (220,000).

Outside of Israel, there has been no natural growth in any Jewish community, and in some, the number of births is less than the number of deaths, the report said.

"In Western societies today, Jews are known to be more modern than their society around them. Jews today in Western societies are among the less married with less children than the people around them.

The growing rate of divorce and the growing number of singles in Jewish communities contributes to negative growth, in addition to growing assimilation," Becker explained.

Some communities have grown thanks to immigration over the past 20 years, including Canada and Brazil. The renaissance in Jewish life in Germany continues, largely due to the arrival of Jews from the CIS, and some 70,000 Jews currently live there.

Some 2,500 Jews live in Hong Kong and some 7,000 in Panama, representing what the report said are new economic opportunities for Jews in those places.

There are almost no Jews in distress, and even the 25,000 Jews of Iran are able to carry on a Jewish life. Some 400 Jews remain in Yemen, about 100 in Syria, and about 650 on Gibraltar.

According to the report, some 500,000 Israelis have left the country since its establishment. Most (350,000) live in the US, Canada (40,000), France (40,000), Great Britain (30,000), South Africa (10,000), Germany (8,000), and Australia (5,000). Many take no part in community activities, the report said.

CLINTON

Continued from Page 1

At the senator's request, Starr's office calculated the costs its Washington office incurred between January 15, the day his office got permission to expand the Whitewater investigation to include the Lewinsky allegations, and August 31.

Democrats fear the videotape of Clinton's testimony will not put him in the best light. Those familiar with the closed testimony have been quoted as saying Clinton lost his temper several times and once had to take an hour break to cool down.

"There is a consensus [among Democrats] that the tape should not be disseminated. This is a political stunt; it's political theater," said Jim Jordan, the Judiciary Committee's Democratic spokesman.

But since Clinton claims he did not lie to the grand jury – based on his legal interpretation that sexual relations do not include oral sex – Republicans contend the public ought to judge his testimony for themselves.

"It's information the public has a right to know," said Georgia Republican Representative Bob Barr, who filed the first impeachment bill long before the Lewinsky affair became known. "If people have a problem with the graphic testimony, they should complain to [the White House at] 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue."

At the White House, spokesman Mike McCurry announced Clinton has chosen Gregory Craig, a top State Department official, to join the team of White House officials handling Starr's report.

"Mr. Craig will quarterback the response to the [Starr] referral," McCurry told reporters, adding that Craig would hold the title of assistant to the president and special counsel at the White House.

The White House also confirmed that Clinton has sought religious counsel. Rev. Tony Campolo, a Baptist pastor and professor of sociology at Eastern College in Pennsylvania, said he and Rev. Gordon MacDonald, of the Grace Chapel Protestant church in Lexington, Massachusetts, had been asked by Clinton for spiritual help. The pastors, who have previously advised Clinton on religious matters, said at least one of them would meet with Clinton weekly.

"We want him to understand what went wrong with him personally that led to the tragic sins that have so marred his life and the office of the presidency," said Campolo. "We want to provide all the help that we can to spiritually strengthen him against yielding to the temptations that have conquered him in the past."

MacDonald said Clinton had twice read his book, Rebuilding Your Broken World, about MacDonald's quest for redemption and return to the ministry after an extramarital affair. "I am in a position to talk the language of repentance," MacDonald said.

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NEWS
in brief

Suspect in Elimelech murder under house arrest

Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court Judge Gabriel Strassman yesterday ordered that Yehuda Shelef, who is suspected of murdering 12-year-old Nava Elimelech in 1982, be released to house arrest.

The judge determined that it would be feasible to carry out the remainder of the investigation while the suspect is at home. Police had asked to extend Shelef's remand.

Shelef said that investigators have pressured him throughout the interrogations and added that his arrest stemmed from an effort by his ex-wife to besmirch him. *Itim*

Federman acquitted of attacking peace activists

Former Kach activist Noam Federman was acquitted yesterday of attacking Peace Now activists. He was charged with spraying water at Peace Now activist Janet Aviad, when she was leading a tour of Hebron last October.

He was also charged with throwing eggs at a group of visitors touring Beit Hadassah in Hebron.

Jerusalem Magistrate's Court Judge Shimon Feinberg said it was not proven that Federman took part in the water incident or threw eggs.

Peace Now spokeswoman Hagit Yaari said the acquittal reflects the courts' leniency toward right-wing extremists. *Amy Klein*

Pines objects to religious funding plan

MK Ophir Pines (Labor) has objected to a Religious Affairs Ministry project funding more religious studies for pensioners through various non-profit organizations. A tender for the NIS 2.5 million project was recently issued by the ministry. The project is nicknamed the Jubilee Kollel.

Pines said the project is another form of dedicating special funds for religious programs.

"It's a new trick at getting people to become newly religious and is particularly absurd coming at a time when other ministries have had their budgets cut," Pines said.

The ministry said it had a longstanding program providing religious studies for pensioners. *Liat Collins*

Zissmann threatens to vote no on budget

Third Way MK Emanuel Zissmann is threatening to vote against the budget over what he considers to be harm to Jerusalem's standing by the proposed cut in tax benefits in the greater Jerusalem area. Yesterday Zissmann sent a warning letter to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. He is also demanding that the Third Way meet to discuss the issue.

"At the same time that the government is taking no action over the wildcat building in Arab neighborhoods surrounding the capital, which is cutting it off and isolating it from nearby Jewish communities, it is weakening the strength of the Jewish neighborhoods of greater Jerusalem by cutting tax benefits which attract young couples instead of making them go to the coastal region," Zissmann said. *Liat Collins*

Arabs call off school protest

Israeli Arab leaders have called off a demonstration by teachers and schoolchildren that was scheduled to have taken place in Jerusalem today to protest what they described as the neglected state of the Arab education system. The decision to postpone the protest action follows a meeting with Education Minister Yitzhak Levy, who promised to do his utmost to help improve the situation. *David Rudge*

Jerusalem police chief tells briefing:

Would-be car bomber acted alone

By AMY KLEIN

The terrorist who attempted to detonate a car bomb in the center of Jerusalem on July 20 acted alone, police said yesterday.

Over the last week, police were able to question the suspect, Jalal Roumani, who had been sedated since the attempted bombing.

Roumani had driven a van packed with gas canisters, flammable liquids and kilos of nails, which could have destroyed everything within an 80-meter radius in the capital's center, police say. His van caught fire before he could detonate it.

Roumani was brought to Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem, in critical condition with severe facial burns and was sedated, the hospital spokesman said.

He comes from Amari refugee camp, near Ramallah.

Roumani's life is no longer in danger. "His version confirmed our assessment that he acted alone and not as part of a terror unit or other organization," said Jerusalem Police Chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki.

It was cause for concern that Roumani was able to enter the capital from the territories, Yitzhaki said.

"The police can seal the city with roadblocks – but not hermetically," Yitzhaki said.

Security forces will be strengthened in Jerusalem for the holidays in anticipation of several hundred thousand visitors, Yitzhaki added.



Data center for single parents

Single mother Dalia Lamdani, holding her daughter Tal, points to data called up by Esther Lazar, chairman of WIZO's department for single-parent families, at the opening of WIZO's data center in Beersheba yesterday. The center for data on rights and services for single-parent families, the fifth opened by WIZO with the Joint Distribution Committee, joins two in Jerusalem, one in Haifa, and one in Kiryat Gat. (Yael Somekh/Israel Sun)

Rights groups deplore 'deportation' of Palestinians

By IRI DAVIDI

A "quiet deportation" of Palestinians from east Jerusalem is being conducted by the Interior Ministry and the National Insurance Institute, according to a report released yesterday by the B'tselem and Hamoked human rights organizations.

"The quiet deportation continues by the Interior Ministry ... for no security reasons [causing] deep tragedy for the families involved," B'tselem legal adviser Eliahu Abrams told a joint press conference.

The 51-page report accuses the government of trying to ensure a strong Jewish majority in Jerusalem by revoking Palestinians' right to residency, including access to NII social benefits.

"The Interior Ministry's policies result in the loss of Palestinian rights to live in a city where they have roots and history," said Eitan Felner, executive director of B'tselem.

According to the report, in 1995, 96 Palestinians had their residency permits revoked, jumping to 689 in 1996. For 1997, the figure is 606, with another 500 cases under review. Between January and March of this year, 178 Palestinians lost their residency.

The report also accuses the ministry of refusing to register babies born to east Jerusalem residents and to issue them identification numbers. It also charges that the ministry refuses to approve requests for family unification.

The report accuses the NII of suspecting any Palestinian who applies for an allotment of not actually residing in the city, resulting in an investigation that can take months.

"In east Jerusalem, every applicant is considered a liar," said Abrams.

The Interior Ministry disputed the claims of the report in a press release, noting that several hundred family unification requests had been approved between 1995-98.

It said that since 1995 the policy has been that residency expires if a resident of east Jerusalem lives outside the Green Line for seven years or more.

80 families register for Har Homa homes

By AMY KLEIN

Some 80 families have registered to buy apartments at Har Homa in Jerusalem, despite the fact that construction on the controversial site has not begun.

The southeastern Jerusalem neighborhood-to-be was the focus of international contention a year and a half ago, when Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu approved plans to build Jewish housing there.

The 1,850-dunam (462.5-acre) site is located between Ramat Rachel and Gilo.

Bright yellow signs posted around the capital advertise: "Registration for Har Homa Continues: Apartments 3-5 Rooms." The company behind the signs is Homot Meir (Meir's Walls), named after the late deputy mayor Shmuel Meir.

For NIS 200, Homot Meir accepts applications to register people interested in buying apartments at Har Homa, said company director Eliyahu B'shari. About 80 people have signed up and they hope to register another 70, B'shari said. The company will "negotiate with the contractors for a better deal on an apartment," he said. He estimates that a four-bedroom apartment will cost $140,000.

B'shari hopes that tenders to build the site will be issued soon, so he can negotiate with contractors. As of last January, Netanyahu had cited technical problems as the cause for the delay in issuing the tenders, but said they would be issued by the end of the first quarter of 1998.

"All the infrastructure – water, sewerage, electricity – was completed months ago," said Danny Nahamu-Cohen, site manager for the Shai Shem Tov construction company.

"We're ready to market Har Homa," said Ministry of Construction and Housing spokesman Moshe Friedman. "The minute it's decided, we'll issue the tender."

Netanyahu's communications director David Bar-Illan said the prime minister is waiting for the "appropriate time" to issue the tenders and that "the only thing [Netanyahu] has said is that, by the year 2000, Har Homa will be built."

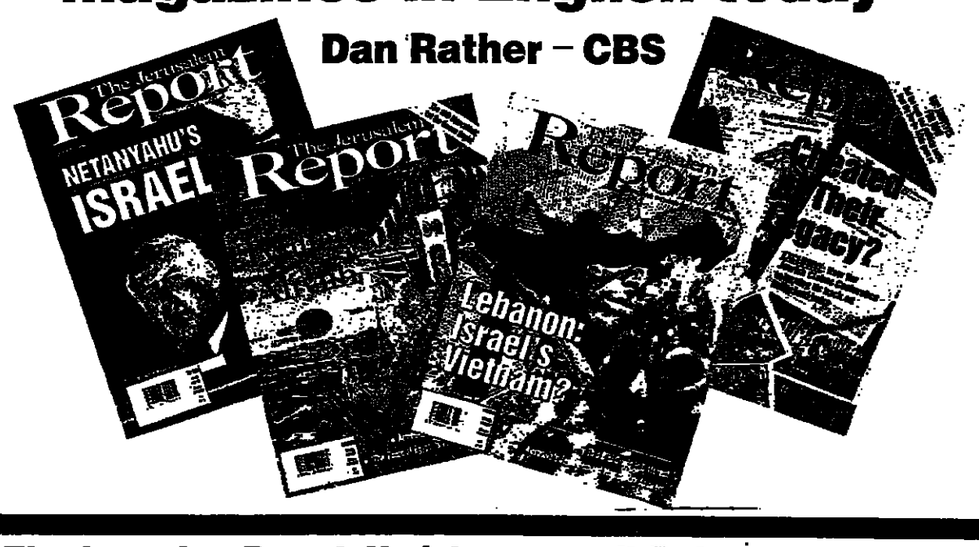
Land of Israel Front member MK Zvi Hendel said the delays on Har Homa reflect the government's building policy in Jerusalem. "I don't understand [Netanyahu's] tactics. It seems the Europeans and the Arab threats influenced him."

The caucus does not intend to push the issue of Har Homa right now, Hendel said, because "we can't threaten every Tuesday and Thursday to bring down the government." He said Har Homa would be built soon, because every delay "shows weakness and causes problems in other places."

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Sex harassment law takes effect Sunday

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

Advocates for women's rights have high hopes for a groundbreaking new law against sexual harassment which goes into effect on Sunday.

At a special all-day session Na'amat organized yesterday to examine the implications of the new law, the organization's legal advisor, Etti Pilpel, hailed the legislation as "a tool by which women can preserve their dignity" and "a step in the long process of changing the norms of Israeli society to those in which a refusal to a proposition is taken at face value."

While the law prohibits sexual harassment in all settings and by all sexes, its greatest impact is expected to be on women in the workplace who suffer from suggestive remarks, unwanted physical contact, or threats of punishment if they do not respond positively to sexual advances.

Attorney Michal Bar-On, who is responsible for workplace issues at Na'amat, says that the law will strengthen the ability of women in these situations to take action, since it squarely places the responsibility for dealing with sexual harassment on her employer.

The law spells out specific steps that a company must take within a prescribed timetable whenever a complaint of sexual harassment is made. If such steps are not taken, the company is considered as guilty of harassment as the individual accused of committing the action.

"Until now, there were some public institutions that have had a process in place for dealing with complaints, but the business and private sector chose to ignore them," Bar-On said.

She also noted that the new law, for the first time, makes the act of sexual harassment a crime and specifically spells out the type of behavior that is considered sexual harassment. The new law also requires employers to inform and educate their employees as to the new code of behavior expected of them. Every company must post government-suggested guidelines in a visible spot and is encouraged to hold seminars and training sessions on the subject.

Na'amat chairwoman Hedva Almog announced yesterday that the organization would be meeting with employers and workers committees to explain and discuss the new law and has developed educational materials for that purpose.

Despite the general atmosphere of optimism regarding the law, some speakers at yesterday's seminar warned that not all problems of sexual harassment will be solved instantly, and that it will take time – and several legal precedents – before societal norms catch up to this ground-breaking legislation.

Dr. Sharon Margaliot, a law lecturer at Herzliya's Interdisciplinary Center, warned that it is important that "we do not represent this law as a weapon to be wielded by women against men. It has to be understood that this legislation is part of a mutual fight by women and men for a fairer, more just and more dignified society."

Probe: Mental facility didn't do proper checks

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Tirat Carmel State Psychiatric Hospital, site of a number of suspected rapes and indecent acts in recent months, has not performed careful identity checks of people entering and leaving the facility, except to examine bags for weapons.

This is one of the conclusions of a report prepared by the Kotler Committee, which was appointed by the Health Ministry recently to investigate the situation. The committee is headed by Prof. Moshe Kotler, director of the State Psychiatric Hospital in Beersheba.

Ministry spokesman Yoram Malka refused to issue the full eight-page report, even with personal details inked out, despite the fact that Tirat Carmel is owned and run by the ministry. He released only his own two-page summary of it.

Simultaneously, the police are investigating complaints by women patients who claimed to have been raped or sexually abused in the wards.

Malka said that there was "no common denominator to the series of incidents that could point to an organizational or management failure. It was only by unfortunate chance that several incidents occurred during a short time."

According to Malka's summary, in the latest incident a female patient in an open ward was "apparently abused by a visitor to the hospital" whose identity the authorities still do not know. The committee "did the best it could to file a complaint and ensure that the police investigated it," he said. The incident indicated that, besides a security check, the hospital does not monitor people who enter and leave the institution, the committee said.

The committee recommended the establishment of regulations to eliminate this security gap and protect helpless patients from unwanted visitors."

صكذا من الاصل

صكذا من الاصل



Scholarships for disabled vets

Dr. Meir Kliger (right) receives a scholarship from Kobi Caspi, administration director of the IDF Disabled Veterans Organization, at a ceremony at Beit Halohem in Tel Aviv yesterday. Kliger, who will study alternative medicine was one of some 440 disabled veterans to receive a scholarship.

(Photo: Ilan Ossendryver/Israel Sun)

Plan aims to attract more pupils

New matric exam system proposed

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

A proposal for a new, modular matriculation exam system aimed at attracting more pupils to take the tests and easing the burden on pupils, but maintaining standards, was published yesterday by the Education Ministry.

The proposal, which still is subject to the approval of representatives of institutions of higher education, teachers unions, and pupils, would only take effect in the 1999-2000 school year, and the current system, whereby pupils are tested on about 4/7 of the material studied, would remain in effect this school year.

At its core is a new "modular" system which establishes "basic," "regular" and "advanced" levels for the exams.

Passing at the "regular" level will be required for a matriculation certificate, but passing at the "basic" level can be used as a "building block" towards reaching the next level, thereby either qualifying for or improving one's matriculation certificate.

Under the new system, a pupil taking an exam in English, for example, "can do the basic level first, and then [take another English exam at] the next, regular level, and the same to make the third level. If the pupil tries to take the next higher level and fails, he will still retain the grade from the previous level, which is different from what happens today. Today if he fails, he fails, but in this way, he retains what he has succeeded in. He can always try again, before or after he finishes high school, in all subjects," Ruth Ottolenghi, director of the ministry's high-school division, said.

The number of exams stays the same, but pupils would no longer be required to take at least one at an "advanced" level, as is currently the case. Pupils also would get up to four hours to complete each exam, compared to about two-and-a-half to three hours now.

Pupils would be required to pass a matriculation exam in at least one science or technology-related subject as one of their two non-mandatory exams. They also would have to fulfill a community service requirement in a manner to be determined by each school.

"We want more involved pupils to be involved, to understand that they also have to help people," Education Minister Yitzhak Levy said.

Levy said the proposal's main purpose "is to extend a hand to more pupils to take the matriculation exam... We want there to be more young people in Israel that have matriculation certificates, which open doors both at universities, other institutions and places where this is required."

"This plan gives hope to those who never dreamed of trying to take the exam because they saw it as too difficult a challenge to do so, and the motivation to start," Education Ministry Director-General Benzion Dell.

Ministry officials said that since the introduction of the modular system for English and math in a pilot program that began two years ago, some 5,000 more pupils have applied to take the exams. Winter and summer test dates for English and math, offering pupils more options for taking and planning for the exams, are also part of the proposal.

Representatives of institutions of higher education, the teachers unions, and pupils met with Levy and his advisers yesterday and are to consider the report and make their recommendations soon.

Levy said that Knesset Education Committee chairman Emanuel Zissman had given his blessing to the proposal, and that it had the backing of the universities, who had opposed the "unit" and the lottery systems. Teachers approved the proposal with reservations, he said.

Ben Mayost, representing the pupils, said after the presentation: "We have to discuss these ideas in the council. The main problem is that we don't see any real immediate easing of the burden. The things that were done are welcome but could have been done five years ago. The changes made in the past by Amnon Rubinstein and Zevulun Hammer took into account the huge study burden on 12th graders, and this is not the case here, and that's what bothers us. We'll talk about it."

Mayost welcomed the modular system, however, and said it would very much help weaker pupils.

Nitza Barel, head of pedagogy for the Secondary School Teachers Association, said that Levy's proposal has some merit, and is aimed at increasing the number of pupils earning matriculation certificates.

However, Prof. Dan Inbar, chairman of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's School of Education, said that the efforts to change the exam system aren't enough.

"The whole matter really needs to be examined in a much wider and deeper way," he said. "We have to look into learning processes, what goes on in the upper grades.

"These periodic changes we've witnessed over the years only demonstrate the confusion regarding the exams' value as a tool for measuring the pupil's performance at the end of his or her studies. It shows that people are questioning the whole system, and that's a good thing, but it demonstrates that people are struggling with the issue."

Israel as partner for new militaries

Third and last in a series on Central Europe

CENTRAL EUROPEAN JOURNAL

By STEVE ROSEN

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia – When Czechoslovakia split up more than six years ago, the Slovaks seemed to have obtained a good deal. The country was divided in a roughly 60-40 Czech-Slovak split that gave this new country a larger territory than the proportion of its population, about half that of Czech's 10 million.

The Czechs also agreed that the Slovaks could have virtually the entire country's entire arms production industry, based in northeastern Slovakia. There, factories produced such Soviet weapons as MiGs and T-72 tanks and indigenous weapons such as the Zazuna 155 mm. self-propelled howitzer. The biggest of the lot was Zavody Tazkeho Strojarstva, based in Dubnica.

Only months after the separation, the Slovaks understood that the joke was on them. The end of the Cold War brought a virtual standstill to arms sales in many parts of the world. The aging factories in Slovakia could not compete with far superior and more efficient Western industries.

For the first time, the former East Bloc countries could choose which weapons they wanted.

Today, the Slovakian defense industries, which comprised 70 percent of the former Czechoslovakian defense production, stand largely idle. In some factories, production is running as low is 6% of capacity.

This is a country that needs technology and money fast.

Enter Israel, which is quietly jockeying to become a major player in Central Europe's moribund arms industry. Their problem is overcapacity, aging infrastructure, and lack of advanced technology and markets. Israel's problem is that the arms it produces are too expensive.

It's the ingredients of a match.

"Israel is in a better position in the area than others, including the Americans," said Alon Redlich, a Chicago-based consultant to US defense companies on Eastern and Central Europe. "They have less shackles than the Americans. The Israeli attitude is 'let's make a deal.'"

The model for such an arrangement is Romania. There, Elbit Systems Ltd., based in Haifa, cooperates with several large Romanian defense firms on the upgrade of Soviet MiGs, helicopters, and tanks. The companies also agreed to market the modernized systems to third countries, and Ethiopia has become the first major customer for refurbished MiG-21s.

Israeli defense executives are exploring several possibilities.

Croatia has a large shipbuilding industry that would welcome advanced Israeli subsystems; Yugoslavia has a huge arms industry that would become very attractive once sanctions are lifted.

"Beyond the political criticism of Yugoslavia and Serbia, there is very strong interest in that country," an Israeli official said. "The minute sanctions are lifted, you will see very strong interest in this country and the competition to enter will be stiff."

Slovakian officials said Israel is a likely partner for future defense cooperation. Unlike some other countries in Eastern and Central Europe, Slovakia, with a defense budget of less than $500 million, is not ready to modernize its weapons. But its industrial capacity can be used by Israeli companies to produce advanced – and cheap – weapons.

"Israel and Slovakia are talking of cooperation, but we also need money for projects," a Slovakian official said. "First the governments have to complete several agreements."

Slovakian Foreign Minister Zdenka Kramplova said Israel can contribute high tech, while Slovakia can focus on engineering. "I think that the main tasks should be joint ventures," she said in an interview. "Mechanical engineering would be the role of Slovakia. As far as Israel is concerned, we understand that Slovakia is not a priority, but there is interest."

Zdenka said Israel and Slovakia are currently working on a legal framework for joint ventures. They are drafting agreements to prevent double taxation and protect investments.

"There are real opportunities, but so far neither we nor Israel has made use of them," she said.

Israeli defense officials who have visited Slovakia and other Central European countries say there is good reason for this. Most of these countries are close to broke and possess aging factories that would require tens of millions of dollars to modernize.

"These countries have big ideas," an Israeli defense official familiar with the area said. "They also don't have money. What they want is for us to invest in them just like that."

At one point, the Central and Eastern Europeans had Western companies interested in doing just that. When the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland were designated as likely partners to join NATO, representatives of all three countries put out the word that they were ready to buy Western fighters and fast. Companies such as Boeing and Lockheed Martin flocked to open offices in Warsaw and Budapest. The three countries are scheduled to enter NATO in April.

Lockheed Martin Tactical Aircraft Systems vice president Robert Trice Jr. recalls spending 47 days in these countries over the last year alone. He recalls that he soon learned that these countries are in no position to buy.

"These countries thought that they would be getting help from the West to enter NATO, as well as grants to buy Western equipment," Trice said. "But they soon understood there was no money for that."

Still, there was enthusiasm in the race to sell the new NATO invitees planes. Boeing went so far as to agree to pay $33 million for a 34% share in the bankrupt Czech aerospace manufacturer Aero Vodochody. Lockheed Martin turned down the offer, concluding that the Czech company needed up to $400 million in investment and wasn't worth saving.

US companies, however, have not left Central and Eastern Europe. Instead, they have participated in small-scale programs designed to train former East Bloc nations in modern military concepts.

One such program is a US-funding project to train former East Bloc nations in air defense. So-called national sovereignty centers are being established in the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland, and they will be followed by 2001 with centers in Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia, and Slovakia.

Still, Israeli companies have found some solid customers in the region. One of the best is Slovenia, which with a defense budget of around $400 million, is willing to pay for a modern military.

The result is lots of Israeli activity. Some of the players include Elbit, Israel Aircraft Industries, Tadiran Com., and Radom.

Slovenia has a long way to go. Officials said the long term development of Slovenia's military will be completed by 2010. By 2003, defense officials expect Slovenia to be 80% compatible with NATO.

This will mean a large increase in the defense budget, from the current 1.86% of gross national product for defense to 2.5% for the next five years.

"Our cooperation with Israel is very good, especially between the Slovenian Ministry of Defense and Israeli military industries," Slovenian Defense Minister Alojz Krapez said. "Currently, we are preparing general agreements on cooperation on defense systems between our ministries. We would like to raise the cooperation to a higher level."

Krapez said he expects Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to visit Slovenia. His trip had been postponed and has yet to be rescheduled. The two men are to sign an agreement for Israel to help train the Slovenian military.

But the Israelis will have plenty of competition in Slovenia as in the rest of the region. Lubljana plans to open all programs to international competition. With the best economy of the former republics of ex-Yugoslavia, Slovenia is being flooded by Americans and Europeans looking to build that country's air defense and communications systems.

"In terms of future acquisitions, the criteria will be price, quality of equipment, and product support," Krapez said. "What is very important is product support. If we don't get good product support we can't continue."

Guard shortage threatens school trips

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Just after a strike settlement enabled teachers to accompany school trips, an unforeseen shortage of guards and weapons is threatening to force their cancellation for a second year.

The Knesset Education and Interior committees are to meet in a joint session tomorrow in Tel Aviv, along with the various bodies involved in organizing school trips, to try to deal with the issue.

The problems arose following a recent report by Israel Radio military reporter Carmela Menashe that soldiers on leave were moonlighting as guards for school trips using their IDF-issue weapons, in contravention of regulations. The IDF then announced a ban on the practice, which reportedly supplied some 80 percent of guards provided by security companies for school trips.

At the same time, the police announced that it would issue weapons to parents accompanying school trips only if the parents are active members of the Civil Guard.

Meanwhile, the Education Ministry has forbidden those accompanying school trips to use Uzi submachine guns, claiming they are not safe enough for such duty.

As a result, guard companies are cancelling requests from schools for armed escorts, even though the police announced it would supply 30 carbines to each company.

"In the past, it was acceptable for a soldier on leave to earn a little money by accompanying trips with his personal weapon," Knesset Interior Committee chairman MK Micha Goldman said yesterday. "The IDF now opposes this... The matter is complicated, and I hope to call all the relevant bodies together to prevent a situation where the pupils will still not be able to go on trips – a situation that cost tour operators hundreds of millions of shekels last school year."

Israel Parents Association chairman Shai Lachman told Israel Radio yesterday he had tried to warn about the problem in the past. "I would call this an act of real [stupidity]. The Education Ministry, the police, the army, and the Interior Ministry have joined together to make it impossible for pupils to take trips this year, each for its own reasons."

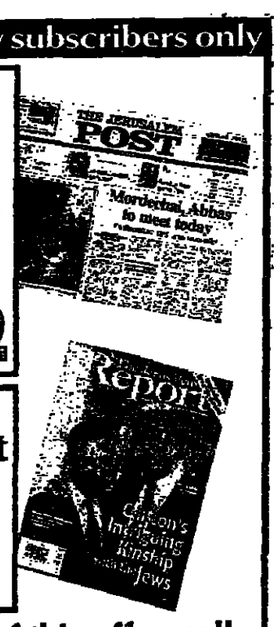
Lachman belittled the semi-automatic World War II-vintage carbines used by the Civil Guard and guards escorting school trips, saying they "hardly qualify as weapons. This shows the security forces' attitude regarding school trips, when they only allow guards to carry carbines. It can only be used as a club."

Maoz said his company had been given 30 carbines by the police, "and I'm telling anyone who calls me, 'First come, first served.'"

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Blood brothers

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

TRANSYLVANIA - The first glimpse of Count Dracula's castle does not disappoint. The hill on which it sits thrusts suitably upward and the castle's spires claw gothically at the sky.

It would be churlish to carp that, for the first time after three days in raining Romania, the sky is now clear blue, rather than appropriately black and crisscrossed by fork lightning. At least there are some ravens, cawing in the high pines.

A more serious carp might be that it's all lies. The Dracula thing began with Dubliner Bram Stoker's book of that name 100 years ago – those Irishmen with their over-fertile imaginations are a menace.

The "real" Dracula, Vlad Dracul the Impaler, was a nasty medieval warrior with a fondness for spiking his enemies on sharp stakes. Stoker poetically relicensed bloodthirsty as bloodsucking, and a legend was born.

The Transylvanian edifice is actually called Bran Castle, and there is no evidence that even Vlad, much less Christopher Lee, ever roamed its gloomy halls.

Vampire breath

However, facts must not be allowed to get in the way of the serious business of milking gullible tourists. In a nearby wood-beamed restaurant replete with pan-sylvan artifacts and a blazing fire, long skeins of garlic hung from hooks to keep at bay the pointy-toothed denizens of the witching hours.

Romania's tourism industry is a mess, much like the rest of its rust-encrusted industries, so it needs all the help it can get. As the finance minister pointed out to us, the country itself "is a gift from God" – fertile plains, mountains, a Black Sea coast, the Danube and Transylvania. It's the country's people that exasperate the minister: "Here tourism is collapsing month by month. All other East European states... are running a surplus."

In Romania, God giveth, but the tourists stayeth away. That is not God's fault. The word drac means "devil" and, despite all its beauties, Romania now reduced to selling the infamous memories of its two most famous sons of Satan, Vlad and Ceausescu, for tourist dollars.

Most bizarre is the "be a dictator for a day" program just inaugurated. Do the nasty little Napoleons with delusions of grandeur among us need any more encouragement?

Nic the dic

Romanians, who earn $80 a month, cannot afford even to pretend, but foreigners with $2,500 a day to waste can live like Nicolae Ceausescu for as long as it lasts, "the authentic experience of a dictator," says the promotional material.

After the megalomaniac marble obscenity of the 330,000-sq.m. People's Palace he built for himself in Bucharest, Ceausescu's private home in the city at first glance seems relatively modest. Even in a democracy, a head of state gets a residence of some substance. In a dictatorship, one puts a permanent red carpet on the steps up to the entrance hall, so the dainty feet of the people's leader and his miserable shrew of a wife do not tread on common marble.

But as we traveled through layer after layer of this private palace, the oppression of the unending tasteless Romanian-Ottoman-Victorian opulence, chandeliers and bric-a-brac deepened. Should you opt to be tourist dictator for a day, it's all yours, flunkeys and servants included.

Also included are the famous tiled and mirrored mini-palace bathrooms with gold fixtures. There are rolls of soft toilet tissue (unheard of in the rest of the country) nestling in golden holders patiently waiting for another dictatorial people's butt.

There is the living room with French windows opening on to an interior semi-tropical garden with mosaic fountain and fake summer house. On a nearby gable, a peacock still roams.

Private parts

Down below (still inside) is a vast indoor swimming pool with brilliantly gaudy but meaningless Roman-style mosaics. The floor is carpeted, the dictator's dressing gown still lies on a table, there are endless alcoves with massage beds, dressing tables, cozy corners with uncomfortable furniture.

Further down are lavishly equipped jacuzzis, gymnasia and a plethora of water-jet equipment and odd baths that seriously murmur "kinky!"

This Primaveree palace is only one of the town residences, sealed off from the grim realities of "the people" by a vast and beautiful garden ringed with black steel walls. Just across the road is a sprawling sports club, now owned by former tennis star Ilie Nastase. Ten years ago, it was a private Ceausescu club of course, like all of Romania.

There are Ceausescu palaces everywhere, from west to Black Sea coast, and they are all for rent to anyone with more money than megalomania. There is even a country estate, dominated by the Peles palace, near Vlad's more modest abode in Transylvania. Nicolae liked to hunt.

There was a joke (a capital offense) of a devil who called Count Dracula from the underworld and offered to restore the vampire to his castle in Transylvania. "And have Ceausescu for a neighbor?" said Drac. "No thank you!"

Well, he has him for a neighbor now.

Monica: Victim or vixen?

Now privy to her most intimate thoughts, dreams and actions, the general public takes this opportunity to analyze, sympathize and criticize Clinton's young mistress

By MEGAN ROSENFELD and MICHAEL COLTON

Monica, we hardly knew ye. But we sure know a lot more now.

Never before has a legal document provided so many people with a keyhole view of a young woman's hopes, dreams and sexual proclivities, offering the public at large a chance to analyze, sympathize and criticize. Readers of Kenneth Starr's report imagine her as the star of either *Fatal Attraction* or *Seduced and Abandoned* – or *Dumb and Dumber*.

Just looking at a list of the (numerous) gifts she presented President Clinton offers a portrait of a girl/woman, a person who is, or is trying to be, coy, seductive, sophisticated and supremely tacky. She delivered them in batches, too, as though trying to cover all bases – if he didn't like the frog-embossed letter opener, maybe he'd go for the copy of *Oy Vey! The Things They Say: A Guide to Jewish Wit*. Or what about the selection that included an erotic postcard and her "thoughts on education reform." Clinton must have been extra happy to get those.

Lewinsky's spokeswoman Judy Smith said neither she nor Lewinsky would comment on the report by the independent counsel. Indeed, one of the oddities of this episode is that millions of people now know more about Lewinsky in some ways than they do about their closest friends, but have no idea what her voice sounds like.

Opinions about Lewinsky are as diverse as her presents. She's a conniving tramp; she's pathetic; she's bravely honest. On one level, thoughts about her reflect a generational divide, as people closer to her age tend to be less shocked by what older people see as Lewinsky's brazen aggression. (Showing the president of the United States of America the straps of your thong underwear by way of introduction, for example.) And for some, her story demonstrates a quandary faced by many young women today – they are well schooled in the techniques of sex and seduction, but less prepared for a multidimensional relationship.

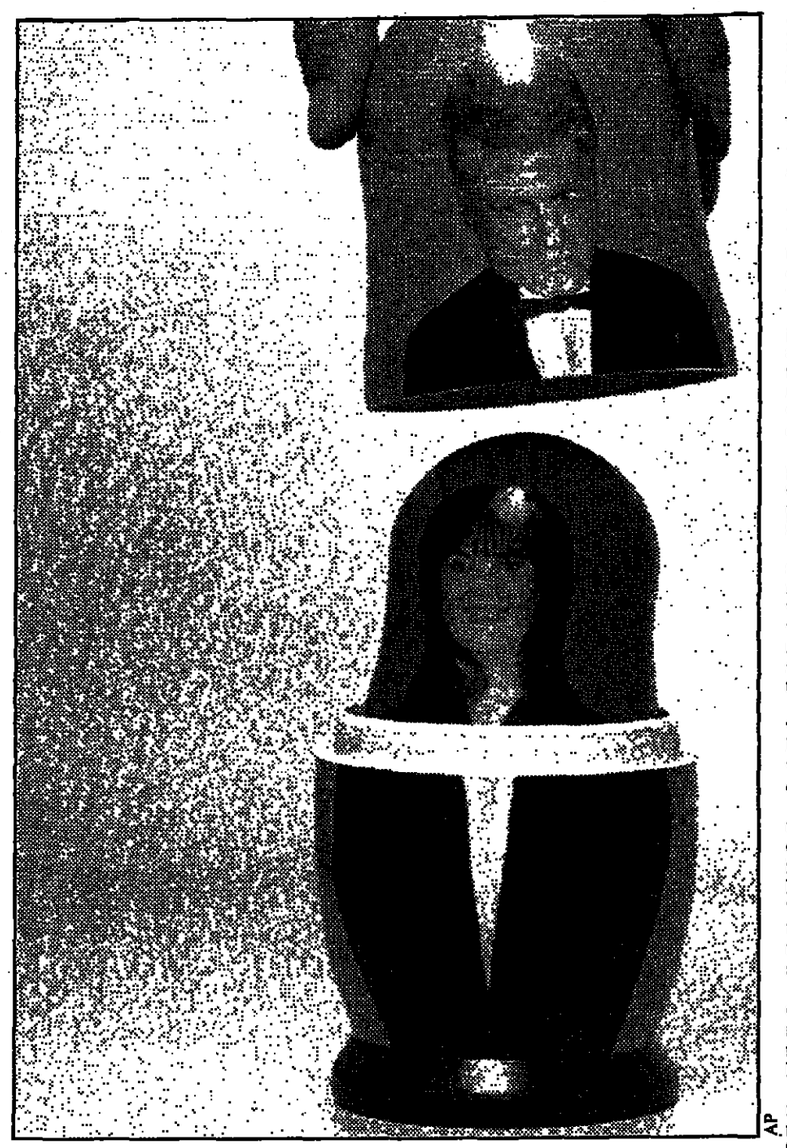
"Women my age don't necessarily think she is the worst tramp in the world," said Amy Holmes, 25, special project manager for the Independent Women's Forum, an anti-feminist group of women intellectuals. "We understand it. We didn't grow up with the idea that you don't call a boy, or you don't jump into a sexual relationship on the first date. She is typical of the nihilism of female sexuality at this point. I think it's tragic someone in his position so brutally exploited her lack of understanding and sophistication. This poor little girl thought this was going to be like *Dynasty*."

Paul Hemesath, 25, is also sympathetic. "I know a lot of people that would do the exact same thing," Hemesath said Saturday at a dinner party for Alianza del Derecho, a Hispanic student organization at Georgetown Law School. "I don't think you'd find too many unattached single women who would pass that up."

Sally Rosenthal, 25, a research assistant for a film production company in Manhattan, views Monica as "a naive little ho, actually.... I don't generally have much sympathy for a woman who'll go chase after a married man, even if he is who he is."

Rep. Loretta Sanchez, D-Calif., called Monica "one sick puppy."

A therapist consulted by Lewinsky, Kathleen Estep, told the prosecutors that her patient suffered from depression and low self-esteem, but was "self-aware, credible, insightful, introspective, relatively stable, and not delusional," the report said.



AP

Others see in Lewinsky a product of Beverly Hills and Brentwood, Calif., where Lewinsky grew up among the brain trust that produced *Melrose Place*.

"I don't for one minute think she was anything but a conniver," said a friend of Monica's father Bernard Lewinsky who observed Monica as a teen. "I would never consider Monica a victim. She knew exactly what she was doing and that she would capitalize on it big time."

The young women shopping Saturday at the BCBG store in Brentwood – a store for the impossibly thin and extremely hip, located a few blocks from Bernard Lewinsky's house – know women like her. In this part of the world, star stalkers are a dime a dozen. Everyone knows someone who has slept with someone famous.

"I call those people spotlight vampires," said recent UCLA graduate Tassa Hampton, as she fingered a $60 blouse. "They always need to be in the spotlight. She seems like the type to make herself known at a party."

Readers of Kenneth Starr's report imagine Monica as the star of either *Fatal Attraction* or *Seduced and Abandoned* – or *Dumb and Dumber*

"Spoiled. Daddy's little girl. Knows how to wrap a man 'round her little finger," said her friend and classmate Grace Kim.

"I was smart enough to know better at 21," Hampton added. "And she's gotten around, because she obviously knew what she was doing."

But one woman who went to Brentwood High School had some compassion for Lewinsky. "I really feel sorry for her," said Lisa Marie Novins, 35, having coffee at the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf barely two blocks from Lewinsky's father's house.

"I'm most incensed at Kenneth Starr. He's humiliated her. Her life is ruined. How dare he take this young woman and degrade her to the world, and pass it on to Congress? He had no remorse for that young woman. We're all human, we all have desires, make mistakes."

THE POTENCY of wealth, fame and power as an aphrodisiac has a long and dishonorable history, especially in Washington. People who have worked in politics have seen the groupies who cluster around even the dullest legislator, fawning and compliant in the presence of status. Whether these women evoke revulsion, pity or envy, they have become an archetype that seems to have endured through feminism, the sexual revolution and the advent of special prosecutors.

It is in this area that people seem either to feel or lose sympathy for Lewinsky – that Clinton, notoriously experienced in these matters, exploited her willingness, or, alternatively, that she methodically went after him.

Some believe Clinton played with her psyche as well as her body, pushing her away one day and pulling her back the next, suggesting a future, affection and real interest while their encounters in the Oval Office hallway had all the intimacy of a subway car at rush hour.

"Intermittent gratification is the most potent psychological reinforcer," said psychiatrist Sally Satel, who feels some sympathy for Lewinsky. "It creates the most intense expectation."

One former White House intern from the summer of 1995, who knew Monica, puts more responsibility on Lewinsky. "She was always demanding attention and she was a little naive. It takes a certain kind of naivete to show the president your G-string, to not censor yourself and realize this was inappropriate," he said.

After reading the report and coming to view her to be a willing participant, he's lost any sympathy he felt for her. "But I wouldn't wish what she's going through on anyone."

The report suggests another stereotype – the Princess. She whines, she pesters, she cries, and thinks nothing about complaining to the leader of the free world that he hasn't done enough to help her get a job. "I know that what is going on in the world takes precedence," she wrote, "but I don't think what I have asked you for is unreasonable....

"This is so hard for me. I am trying to deal with so much emotionally, and I have nobody to talk to about it. I need you right now not as president, but as a man. PLEASE be my friend."

Of course, she didn't want a job she had to work to get. "I just want it to be given to me," she said. And she didn't want to be "someone's executive/administrative assistant"; she wanted a salary that would "provide a comfortable living" in New York City. Enough, presumably, to continue to receive house calls from hairdressers.

"I save my sympathy for people who deserve it, not for some Beverly Hills princess who's bored and tries to spice up her life," said Matt Donahue, 23, an elementary school teacher in Monica's college town of Portland, Ore.

"I think she's a little more sophisticated than we've been led to believe," said Cabot Orton, 28, an independent film producer in Los Angeles: "She was leveraging herself for better job positions, turning some down, trying to eke her way up the ladder."

But even some of those who feel little compassion for Lewinsky's situation now show concern about what may await her in the future. Here she is, with few marketable skills and a reputation that could only get her employment in Las Vegas.

"Who's going to want to marry her, now that she's famous for this?" said Julie Hayes, 36, a management consultant in Chicago and a "Clinton fan."

Writing is also not her forte, judging from the examples provided by Starr, although that may not prevent her from getting a $6 million book contract.

(The Washington Post)

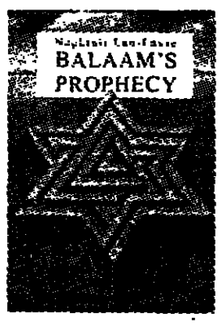
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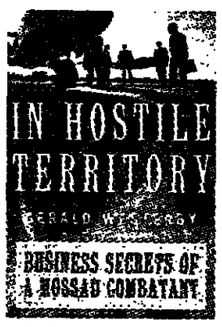
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Iran, Taleban put forces on alert

By KAVEH BASMENJI

TEHERAN (Reuters) – The crisis between Iran and Afghanistan's Taleban seemed to edge closer to conflict yesterday as the militia warned it would hit Iranian cities if attacked, after Iran's supreme leader put the military on alert.

"Iran must know that if the soil of Afghanistan is attacked, we will target Iranian cities and the entire responsibility will rest with Iranian authorities," Taleban spokesman Wakil Ahmed told the independent Afghan Islamic Press (AIP).

"We do not want a war with Iran, but if Iran attacks, we will take all possible necessary measures," Ahmed said, adding that the Taleban had reinforced border positions to counter an Iranian military buildup.

The announcement came shortly after Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei – commander-in-chief of the country's 500,000-strong armed forces – told officials and the military to be prepared for possible action.

Khamenei also told senior commanders of the Revolutionary Guards that the situation in Afghanistan is a "highly crucial issue" for Iran on religious, humanitarian, and political grounds, the official Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

His remarks followed Iranian media reports which accused the Sunni Taleban of widespread killings, rapes, and looting after their capture on Sunday of the central Afghan town of Bamiyan, stronghold of Shi'ite opposition forces which Iran backs.

Hours earlier, the bodies of six Iranian diplomats and an IRNA correspondent killed by Taleban forces in Afghanistan last month were brought back to emotional scenes at Teheran airport.

President Mohammed Khatami, heading thousands of tearful mourners including cabinet ministers, top armed forces officers, foreign diplomats, and bereaved relatives, said at a solemn airport ceremony on Monday night: "I assure you that we will defend the integrity and honor of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the best of our ability." A government official said funerals would be held on Friday.

The Revolutionary Guards said in a statement that both it and the volunteer Basij militia are ready "to help the oppressed and meek people of Afghanistan," IRNA reported.

"The Taleban criminals and their backers should know that the Guards... are ready to take the revenge of the oppressed by revolutionary force," it added.

Iran has built up its forces on the Afghan border to around 70,000 and said more than 200,000 other troops would soon hold war games along the tense frontier.

Iranian religious and state bodies, and several senior Shi'ite clerics yesterday expressed support for Khamenei's statement on Monday, in which he issued a stern warning to the Taleban and Pakistan about a possible regional conflict, state media reported.

"I have... so far prevented the lighting of a fire in this region which would be hard to extinguish. But all should know that a very great and wide danger is quite near," Khamenei said in the statement.

Khamenei said such a danger could only be avoided if Pakistan ceased backing the Taleban and the Islamic militia "abandon actions which lead to a catastrophe and make up for their past errors."

Pakistan denies interfering in Afghanistan.

Iranian television showed hundreds of seminary teachers and students, including Afghans and Pakistanis, marching in the Shi'ite holy city of Qom to condemn the Taleban and support Khamenei's statement.

The Taleban accuses Iran of interference in Afghanistan, a charge denied by Teheran.

Ahmed told AIP that thousands of Afghan civilians living along the border with Iran have "taken weapons from the government for the defense of our country."

He repeated the movement's call for UN arbitration between Iran and Afghanistan to determine "who is interfering in the affairs of others and who is right and who is spilling the blood of other countries' people and who wants to ignite the fire of war in the region."

Teheran says the Taleban gives Islam a bad name. Iran supports opponents of the group, which controls most of Afghanistan but is recognized as the legal government only by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Albanian PM warns opposition supporters to surrender arms

TIRANA (Reuters) – About 3,000 followers of former Albanian president Sali Berisha defied a government ban and staged a peaceful march through the center of Tirana yesterday as heavily-armed state security forces looked on.

Socialist Prime Minister Fatos Nano, emerging from hiding after Monday's violence during which his office and residence were looted, accused Berisha of trying to stage a coup and demanded that opposition supporters should give up their arms.

In a strongly worded television address, the normally mild-mannered Nano said it was time for the opposition to abandon "the black road of evil" and the government's patience with "criminals" had run out. "The state will not spare the life of any criminal or violator who again attacks the state or citizens with weapons," he said.

Nano made clear he had no intention of resigning, a key demand of Berisha's opposition Democrats, who blame Fatos for the weekend murder of a leading Democratic politician which sparked two days of vicious fighting.

"No government elected by the free vote of the people can accept an ultimatum from a group of armed terrorists, regardless of the fact that this group acts in the name of a political party and is headed by people clothed in political immunity," he said.

"Any prime minister who resigned, yielding to ultimatums made against a background of shooting, would have been a man without ideals who betrayed his country. We shall reject with derision...every demand for our resignation under these conditions." The capital returned to a semblance of normality after two days of political protest and street violence in which at least three people were killed and 14 wounded.

Berisha's followers obeyed his request to march peacefully and in silence, with fingers raised in the victory sign, in honor of their party colleague Azem Hajdari, who was murdered on Saturday.



Democratic Party supporters rally in Tirana yesterday as an armored police vehicle stands by. (AP)

WORLD

in brief

Separatists gain seat in Quebec by-election

SHERBROOKE, Quebec (AP) – Quebec separatists have scored a symbolically important election victory, winning the Parliament seat vacated by Jean Charest, the man trying to lead anti-separatist forces to power in an upcoming provincial campaign.

The by-election victory by the Bloc Quebecois on Monday could encourage Quebec's separatist premier, Lucien Bouchard, to proceed relative quickly with the provincial election.

That vote must be held by the fall of 1999, but Bouchard is expected to call the election either this fall or next spring.

Iraq: Syrian nationals can enter without visas

BAGHDAD (AP) – In a new sign of warming ties, Iraq has decided to allow Syrian nationals to visit the country without visas, a Baghdad weekly reported yesterday.

Al-Intihad said the decision by Baghdad was taken in light of "developing bilateral ties and the growth in trade exchange." It said the Syrians will also be exempt from entry fees.

6 killed in Kashmir violence

SRINAGAR, India (Reuters) – Three separatist guerrillas and three civilians were killed yesterday in separate incidents in India's troubled Kashmir Valley, police said.

"Army soldiers killed three foreign militants deep in the forests of Kupwara and recovered arms and ammunition. Details are awaited," a police spokesman said.

Yesterday morning, suspected separatist guerrillas shot dead two civilians in Ajas village in Baramulla district, 57 kilometers north of Srinagar, police said.

They said another civilian was shot dead by militants in Poonch district of Jammu region.

Nearly a dozen militant groups are fighting for Kashmir's independence or merger with neighboring Pakistan.

Italian police nab Cosa Nostra figure

ROME (Reuters) – Italian police yesterday arrested Mariano Troia, one of the Mafia's most notorious backroom boys, dealing a heavy blow to the nerve center of Sicily's powerful Cosa Nostra.

Troia, one of Italy's 30 most wanted criminals, is the latest in a string of infamous names that in the last year have been checked off the Italian government's long list of mobsters still on the run.

Troia, 65, was captured at dawn when police stormed his hideout on the outskirts of Palermo, city police chief Antonio Manganelli said.

Egyptians download porn with stolen card number

CAIRO (Reuters) – Police arrested two Egyptian computer hackers who used a stolen credit card number to download pornographic pictures and films worth $147,000 from the Internet, security sources said yesterday.

They said police charged the two, who are college students in the city of Port Said, with theft after the credit card's holder complained about the items on his bill.

The sources said the incident was the first Internet-related crime in Egypt.

Yeltsin backs Primakov on economy as ruble falls

MOSCOW (Reuters) – President Boris Yeltsin yesterday backed Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov's plans to pull Russia out of economic crisis and told his new central bank chief to stabilize the sinking ruble.

But the ruble plunged against the dollar for the first time in days and panicky Russians started scrambling to buy safe-haven dollars again after days of hunting for scarce rubles.

Yeltsin, whose authority is in question because of the severe economic and political crisis, issued a list of orders to central bank governor Viktor Gerashchenko and heard Primakov's proposals over the economy and his government lineup.

"The president basically approved what the government is doing now," Primakov, 68, told reporters after his first meeting with Yeltsin since parliament confirmed him on Friday.

He said he expected Yeltsin to issue decrees naming more of the government soon and that the new lineup should be completed by tomorrow.

Primakov gave few details of his economic plans, anxiously awaited by foreign investors who fear market reforms will be abandoned by a government wary of social unrest in the world's second nuclear power.

But the former foreign minister and ex-spymaster said ending wage and pension arrears to millions of Russians was his priority. Despite speculation he will need to print money to do so, he vowed not to allow the return of rampant inflation. "Solutions will be found aimed at avoiding hyperinflation and any worsening of the situation," he said.

The Kremlin said Yeltsin described the central bank's priorities as restoring liquidity to the banking system and helping attract foreign and domestic investment, while ensuring commercial banks met their obligations to households.

John Odling-Smee, the head of the International Monetary Fund department dealing with Russia, arrived in Moscow to meet Primakov and discuss prospects for the release of future tranches of a $22.6 billion aid package agreed on in July.

The IMF has disbursed $4.8b. of its share of the aid package and a further $4.3b. was due in mid-September. US President Bill Clinton has promised US support if the new government commits itself to reforms.

Poll gives Australia's Labor pre-election lead

CANBERRA (Reuters) – A major Australian opinion poll yesterday showed the Labor opposition ahead of the ruling conservatives and populist lawmaker Pauline Hanson fading as the nation moves toward an October 3 election.

The Australian newspaper's Newspoll showed support for Labor had risen to 44 percent compared with 42% for the Liberal-National coalition government.

Both were at 41.5% a week ago.

However, a smaller poll to be published in *The Bulletin* news magazine today showed Prime Minister John Howard with a potentially devastating 10-point lead over Labor.

Both polls showed support for Hanson's nationalist One Nation party continuing to fall almost two weeks after the release of its widely ridiculed 2% "Happy Tax" scheme.

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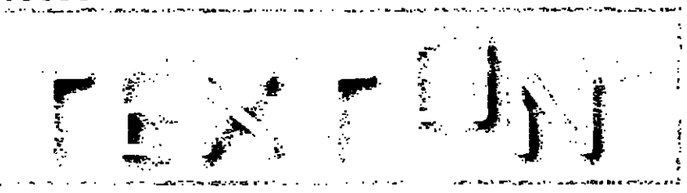
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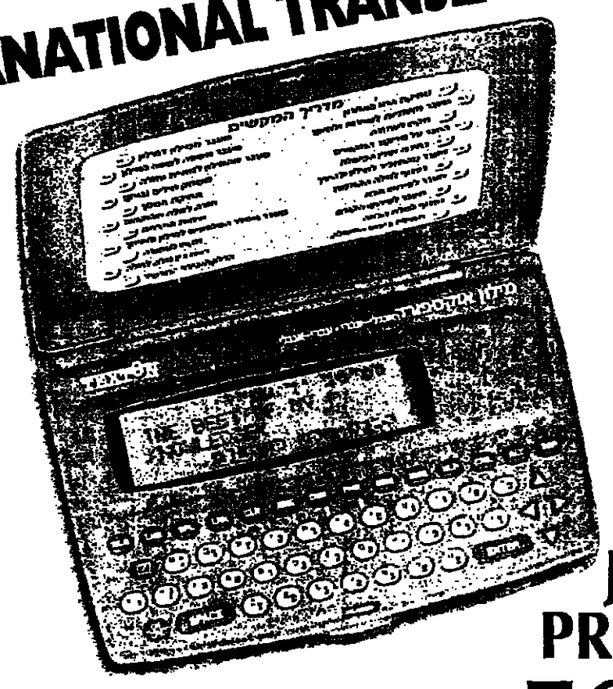
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Polish radio station makes waves with political agenda

By DAVID HOLLEY

It is past midnight, and the woman calling the talk show on Radio Maryja, an enormously popular but highly controversial Roman Catholic station, is sobbing.

She asks permission to say a prayer for her hospitalized sister – and when she finishes, she asks if she may pray again. The priest hosting the show agrees, and she says two more prayers before going off the air.

Emotional, old-fashioned religion – the centerpiece of broadcasts on Radio Maryja – has helped the station strike a sympathetic chord among millions of Polish citizens.

But Radio Maryja (pronounced "Maria") is not just about religion. Through talk shows on current events and support groups across the country, it is becoming an increasingly powerful movement with the ability to mobilize listeners around its right-wing stances.

Its supporters see themselves and the station as fighters against evil forces threatening their nation. Its critics contend that Radio Maryja is spewing a dangerous brew of anti-German and antisemitic nationalism combined with working-class populism.

Owned by a Catholic missionary order and funded by listener donations, Radio Maryja is a key backer of a movement to place crosses near Auschwitz, against the protests of international Jewish organizations.

It has also fiercely opposed what it claims are steps to turn the famous Gdansk shipyard, birthplace of the Solidarity trade union, over to German financial interests – even though all available evidence shows that the recent buyer, another Polish shipyard, has no German ties.

THE STATION'S outlook and the views of most of its callers reflect a broad rejection of much that is happening to Poland as it is buffeted by democratization, the rigors of capitalism and expectations of eventual entry into the European Union.

More than 1.8 million people – nearly 10 percent of the work force – are now unemployed in a country where a decade ago the Communist government guaranteed everyone a job.

Average incomes are higher, but pensioners cannot keep up, and miners, steelworkers and farmers have been hit hard by the pain of economic restructuring and foreign competition. The gap between rich and poor is growing.

Many Polish liberals find the nation's growing conservative political-religious reaction deeply disturbing.

"The movement which has emerged around Radio Maryja has all the traits of a sect," said Sergiusz Kowalski, a sociologist at the Polish Academy of Sciences.

"One of the psychological and social traits of a sect is the feeling of an external threat: ... the feeling that an enemy is lurking everywhere, it is hidden but powerful, omnipotent.

"In my opinion, those who say this is something marginal, something on the fringe of Polish political life, are not right."

Surveys put Radio Maryja's listeners at up to 4 million in a country of 38 million. A July poll by SMG/KRC Poland Media ranked Radio Maryja as the country's fourth-most-popular station, drawing 7.4 percent of Poland's population during the survey period.

Of those listeners, 60% were retired, 69% were women, 46% had no more than junior high educations and only 5.2% had university training.

Just 3.1% of Warsaw's residents listened, while in smaller cities of 200,000 to 500,000 population, 9.7% of the residents were listeners. Nearly half of the audience lived in towns or villages of less than 10,000.

Another poll showed that the average listener spent 219 minutes per day tuned in to Radio Maryja.

The station's broadest appeal is to lonely, elderly women who are angry about negative trends in Polish society, such as an explosion in crime and pornography. But the station also draws younger people with its political agenda.

Such an audience is enough to give the station major political punch. A key bloc of 35 members of Parliament were elected last year with Radio Maryja backing, and the station is already weighing in on local elections scheduled for October.

RADIO Maryja also stands out as a strong conservative voice in a Polish media world dominated by liberals.

The Rev. Tadeusz Rydzyk, the station's founder, specializes in motivational speech laced with innuendo. In a radio talk opposing the sale of the Gdansk shipyard, where the Solidarity movement that toppled Communism was born, he declared: "I remember being in the shipyard. I saw the workers there, the abandoned workers. I thought: These people really care that their shipyard remains in Polish hands.

"For so many years, Poles had built it, only to give it away now for pennies to those whom we fought against many years ago.... Everything is being sold out as though at somebody's command.

"Before it was Moscow commanding us.... And now it looks as though under some pressure – I ask, where is it from? – Poland is being sold out mercilessly," Rydzyk said.

Such views make sense to many Poles, given this country's history of suffering under occupation by Nazi Germany and then under Communist rule, all followed by myriad uncertainties – such as the threat of unemployment – engendered by the current transition to capitalism and democracy.

Sen. Jozef Fraczek, a legislator associated with Radio Maryja, strongly defends the station's nationalistic stance.

"When I went to the US, all the time I heard 'America, America, America,' " Fraczek said. "The American flag is everywhere. There are national holidays, America this, America that.

"Here if someone says 'Poland, Poland,' he is called a nationalist. If one says 'America' in the US, everyone says he is a good man, a patriot."

The station's wear-it-on-your-sleeve nationalism is one of its key attractions.

Anna Wsol, an elderly woman who spent her childhood in the Soviet Union, sometimes on the edge of starvation, said she listens to Radio Maryja because the Virgin Mary saved her life many years ago.

When she was a child, she explained, her mother was sent to a prison camp, and "Maryja took care of me, she helped me.... Otherwise, I would have died."

But in addition to the station's appeal to her faith, she also likes its strong patriotic stance. "They fight for Poland," she explained. "They want Poland to be Poland."

BY BECOMING this country's most popular religious radio station, but at the same time pushing a political agenda, Radio Maryja has created an uncomfortable dilemma for the Catholic hierarchy in Poland.

Archbishop Kazimierz Majdanski had unreserved praise for the station in a speech to an estimated 100,000 people who joined a Radio Maryja-sponsored pilgrimage to Polish Catholicism's most holy place, the Shrine of the Black Madonna in Czestochowa.

"What are you, Radio Maryja, compared to other powers that use the media? You are like David, armed with a small pebble from a stream, facing a Goliath armed from head to toe," Majdanski said.

"Radio Maryja fulfills a great mission," Majdanski added. "The radio, by serving the truth, goes against the idols of today: the cult of money, moral relativity, falsely understood freedoms... and the selling out of Polish land."

But Jozef Zycinski, a liberal bishop from Lublin, recently blasted Radio Maryja for its support of the movement to erect crosses near Auschwitz.

Zycinski said that in the cross dispute, this "radio which calls itself Catholic" was in the same camp with "skinheads" and "former employees of the secret police."

More than anything else, it is the talk shows that attract listeners and give the station its special flavor.

Barbara Stefaniak, a middle-aged member of a support group called the Family of Radio Maryja, said the key virtue of the station is that "they keep contact with society: You can call them, you can ask advice, you can say what you think."

(Los Angeles Times)

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هكذا من الاصل

Glory returns to Ramat Gan

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

In 1954 Michael Taube, a prominent German musician who had immigrated here 19 years earlier, inaugurated the first Israeli chamber orchestra. The Ramat Gan Chamber Orchestra presented music by Israeli composers like Oedoen Partos and Paul Ben-Haim, who wrote special works for it.

The orchestra made a point of featuring young musicians – such as the 12-year-old Daniel Barenboim – as soloists. It also toured regularly all over the world under Sergiu Comissiona, Eliahu Inbal and Mendi Rodan.

When Amos Meller was appointed music director in 1966, the orchestra began its first series of subscription concerts but its activities dwindled and it virtually vanished from the public eye.

When Shalom Ronly-Riklis was appointed music director in 1988, he managed to restore some of the orchestra's lost respect. Upon his death in January 1994 he was replaced by *violist/composer/conductor* Ze'ev Steinberg, a native of Ramat Gan who also plays with the orchestra.

Two years ago the *municipality* decided to make the orchestra one of the city's leading cultural landmarks. Young Israeli conductor Aviv Ron, who studied in Vienna, where he assisted Claudio Abbado in several productions, was appointed music director with a mission to develop the 20-member ensemble into a more substantial musical body and to restore its prestige to that of its early years.

"My major aim is to give the orchestra its own unique profile and by that to maintain a prominent place within the overall local classical music world in general and Ramat Gan music lovers in particular," says Ron

He's come up with a program that in many ways continues the old traditions of the orchestra, yet gives it a lighter and more contemporary image.

Under Ron, the orchestra is commissioning new pieces and presenting a program that is as different as possible from what other orchestras tend to perform.

"It is very important to maintain a balance between familiar and unfamiliar music, between so-called heavy and lighter stuff.

The eight-concert series (opening November 7 and running until June 5) features thematic concerts with a very intriguing program. "Russian Soul," for example, will feature the premiere of *Beautiful Day*, a concerto for trumpet and orchestra by Yevgeni Levitas.

For the "Love in Spain concert," the orchestra will play *Sephardi Romances* by Oded Zehavi, and *Pagliacci* by Ramat Gan native Eyal Bait, which is based on the music of Nino Rota.

In its opening concert the orchestra will present a tribute to Ze'ev Steinberg in a program featuring works he himself has arranged.

The relatively unfamiliar Vaughan Williams violin concerto will also be performed as well as the cantata *Pater Noster* by Janacek.

All that and music by Boccherini, Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky, Puccini, Bach, Purcell, Elgar and many others. In short the perfect combination of styles and periods, something suitable for every taste.

Subscriptions to the Ramat Gan Chamber Orchestra series (all concerts take place Saturday evening at the Ramat Gan Theater) cost NIS 360 for the general public, though there are a variety of reductions available – for example the series costs only NIS 315 for residents of Ramat Gan.

For information call the orchestra on: (03) 578-1688 or 578-1788.



2,500 performers for Wine Festival

This year's Wine Festival Rishon Lezion on October 7 and 8 during Succot also celebrates the jubilee with 2,500 performers in some 50 events, including a sparkling Jubilee Parade. Headliners include Yehoram Gaon, Aviv Gefen, Yossi Banai, Ahinoam Nini, Moni Moshonov and Shlomo Bar-Aba, Bnot Pessia (above) and just about most of the entertainment who's who. Nini is the only headliner it won't cost to see, but there's plenty of free entertainment on seven of the 17 stages. There'll be the usual food-and-wine fair along the streets in the center of Rishon, which will be closed to traffic. *Helen Kaye*

NEWS

of the muse

Cable council discusses complaints against METV

The cable council last week held a preliminary discussion on complaints against METV by the Second Television and Radio Authority (STRA), the Shopping Channel and the JCS production company.

"There are complex legal problems involved because the question is of jurisdiction," said cable council head Zvi Hauser. "METV is beamed in via satellite from outside Israel, and all the cable companies broadcast it."

The STRA objects because METV broadcasts commercials. Advertising is currently illegal on cable TV. JCS objects to the sports broadcasts and the Shopping Channel to the products advertised for purchase. *Helen Kaye*

A month of dancing

For four weekends in a row the Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv will host local dance companies and choreographers in *Curtain Up – International Exposure*. There'll be 16 Israeli premieres from established and young dance professionals, including the Rina Schenfeld Company, the Dror/Ben-Gal Company, Amir Kolben's Kombina, Barak Marshall, and Keren Levy. The event aims to expose local dance to visiting festival artistic directors, company managers and producers as well as to the general public. The event begins November 12. *Helen Kaye*

A double celebration for David Shallon

Israeli conductor David Shallon has a double case for celebration these days. His contract as music director of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, IBA due to end of this coming season has been renewed for three extra seasons beginning next September. And on a more personal note Shallon and his wife violist Tabea Zimmermann recently celebrated the birth of their first son Yuval. Because of the change of his family status Shallon decided not to conduct the JSO on its Romanian concert tour and in the local season-opening concert. Frederic Chaslin is substituting. The proud parents will be back with the JSO for a series of local and international concerts next month. *Michael Ajzenstadt*

A song in their hearts

Netanya will ring with music from morning to night between October 19 and 22 as 150 choirs – 25 of them from abroad – occupy every space that can accommodate an audience. Concerts will be held at the Netanya auditorium, neighborhood schools and community centers, and a huge 2,000-seat tent. The visitors include choirs from Brazil, Russia, South Africa, Poland, Hungary and Germany.

At the heart of this *Shirat Hayamim* festival is a competition and 115 of the choirs will compete in four main categories – children's, men's, women's and mixed choirs. The choirs will perform a variety of styles from classic to jazz and folk and each will have to sing an Israeli song. Liturgical singing is a new category this year and there's an international panel of judges including Gil Aldema, Avner Itai and Switzerland's Willi Gohl, all Zimriya stalwarts. Best of all, many of the performances are free. *Helen Kaye*

Jewish music at its best

CLASSIC DISCS

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The impressive Jewish Music Heritage series of Beth Hatefutsoth features musical treasures performed by first-rate musicians in renditions that only seldom appear on disc. This is a collection of music in varying styles, genres, periods and forms, all written by Jewish or Israeli musicians.

Esti Kenan Ofri, who has been pursuing the centuries-old musical riches of the Sephardi Jews, is one of the most intriguing singers of our time. Her disc, *Juego de siempre: Jewish Spanish Traditional Songs* (BTR 9201), includes 21 selections arranged by some of our leading contemporary composers. This exciting journey through little-known traditions introduces us both to melodies we encounter daily and those quite new to our ears. Kenan Ofri is a gripping performer and her disc is a winner.



Stanley Sperber

Leah Avraham takes her audience on a journey to faraway Yemen. Her *Neveh Midbar. Oasis Jewish Yemenite Women's Songs and Israeli Songs* (BTR 9503) features 18 songs, most of which will be a revelation to the average listener. The disc portrays a very rich and varied tradition with women projecting their daily life in song.

The *Danzig Tradition* (BTR 8901) and the *Koenigsberg Tradition: The High Holy Days* (BTR 8601) are two good examples of traditional daily and High Holy Day prayer that feature the now-defunct Rinat Choir under Stanley Sperber. The performance is superb, the sound exemplary.

A different choral experience is presented by the *Efroni Choir in Jewish and Israeli Music* (BTR 9502). From traditional Shalom Aleichem to the popular "Jerusalem of Gold," this excellent children's choir revels in 25 selections ranging from popular Israeli numbers to more Jewish music.

The human voice is also featured in *Norbert Glanzberg: Sounds of Memory* (BTR 9601). Born in Poland in 1910, Glanzberg studied in Germany where he worked as a conductor, assisted Berg and played on two pianos with Bartok. Glanzberg emigrated to Paris in 1933 and spent two years in the underground and in prison. He wrote many songs for singers like Edith Piaf, Yves Montand and Ute Lemper as well as music for film. Here we can enjoy a song cycle he has written for Mira Zakai who, accompanied by the exquisite Menahem Wiesenberg on the piano, sings with pure devotion and impeccable musicianship. Also on the disc is the composer's two-piano "Yiddish Suite" which is based on stories Glanzberg's mother told him as a child. It is performed with charm and elan by Daniel Gortler and Irit Rub-Levy.

Music Judaica: Varda Nishry, Piano (BTR 9701) is quite a different disc altogether. This is a solo piano recital of music written over the last 60 years – ranging from a Paul Ben-Haim nocturne and Sephardic Lullaby to more contemporary fare.

All discs can be purchased at selected disc stores as well as at Beth Hatefutsoth.

Robert Woodruff – A theater director who grabs the audience by the scruff of its neck

By HELEN KAYE

'Most of the fun is in the research, because everything you do is reflected through it," says director Robert Woodruff.

"It becomes difficult, even frightening, when you start rehearsing. Most of the life of the play is before the actors walk into the room, because when you're rehearsing it, you're close to finishing, and when you've finished it's dead."

Dead for him, that is, because that restless brain and heart are raring off in search of new plays to be fascinated by.

Woodruff has just finished directing two plays back to back at Habimah. The first was *Fossil* by German Jewish playwright Carl Sternheim, and the second was Euripides's *Medea*, which opened Saturday with Gila Almagor in the title role and Doron Tavori as the faithless Jason.

The central event in the tragedy is Medea's sacrificial murder of her own children, to punish Jason for his betrayal of the marriage vows.

Woodruff calls Euripides a revolutionary writer who "laid bare patches that people would rather not come to grips with."

He wishes he could have been in fifth-century Greece, so "I could have heard the conversation between husband and wife when he came home after *Medea* that night – women were not allowed in the theater. I'd have more of an idea how the play worked, but I do have the feeling that every man in that audience grabbed his groin at some point. A male audience might find that play threatening.

"There's something about the entitlement of a woman to kill. If a man does it, like Agamemnon kills his daughter as a sacrifice, people would approve, but if a woman does it, [driven by] something in her brain that speaks for half the planet, we say 'I don't think so.'"

THESE are not conventional responses to Greek tragedy, but then there's nothing conventional about the way he looks at a play. A Woodruff production grabs its audience by the scruff of the neck and demands attention.

Medea is his fourth Israeli production. The first two were *The Changeling* and *Jew Suess* at the Beersheba Theater. They were bold, uncomfortable, theatrical and visually innovative productions that left nobody indifferent.

The Fossil, the last play of the Sternheim quartet about the Maske family, is the same.

"He takes huge risks," says Tavori, who has starred in all four Woodruff productions, "and he encourages everybody to do the same, to go out on that limb."

There is a deep professional and personal friendship between them, dating from 1988 when producer Madeleine Puzo introduced Woodruff to Tavori when he was appearing in Yehoshua Sobol's *A Jewish Soul* in Los Angeles.

They met again when Woodruff toured Gaza and the West Bank together with other avant-garde American directors, and then, says Tavori, "when I sold the idea of *The Changeling* to Gadi [Roll, the then artistic director at Beersheba], I said that I had the director too.

"He's inspiring to work with, very open to ideas from everybody, so much so that he enlists people's enthusiasm and affection. They enjoy working with him, and he works with everybody at once, with the actors, the designers, the lights, everybody, from the beginning.

"He doesn't just listen. He pays attention," Tavori says. "He responds more to what the actor does than the craftsmanship he brings to the doing."

"It's Doron who brings me back," Woodruff responds. "It's not often that a director can work with someone so gifted."

But he doesn't really take risks, Woodruff says, because, "if you really do what a play is about, and it's usually about what people don't want to see, then you can't hide behind the form or the material. The theater hides behind itself too much.

"A play is the means to investigate ideas, emotions, creation. It's a prism through which to look at the world. For me it's a survival tool because without it I wouldn't have a way to focus my own thoughts and emotions."

WOODRUFF is thin, almost emaciated. He wears black – black jeans, black singlet, black boots. His near-black hair is gathered into a neat ponytail. His head is long and there are deepish lines on his face. He hides his eyes behind dark glasses.

When he sits in the theater to take notes during a run of the play, he melts to near invisibility. He speaks softly, smiles warmly, and smokes all the time, fat cigarettes he rolls himself.

His mother was a seventh-generation sabra, but her family emigrated to the US when she was a baby. He was born (in 1947) and raised in New York, studied political science, worked for three years as a teacher in order to get a draft deferment during the Vietnam war. He only began working in theater when he was 24.

"Ideas about time shattered in the late Sixties and early Seventies," he says. "It was more about 'I want to do what I want to do now, without thinking of the future.' Theater seemed to hold out promise of immediate reward."

He studied directing at San Francisco State and his first professional production was the Brecht-Weill *Threepenny Opera* which he remembers ruefully as "a mess. Talk about biting off more than you can chew."

And after Richard Eder's savaging in *The New York Times* of his *Curse of the Starving Class* by Sam Shepard, "I thought about becoming a dentist."

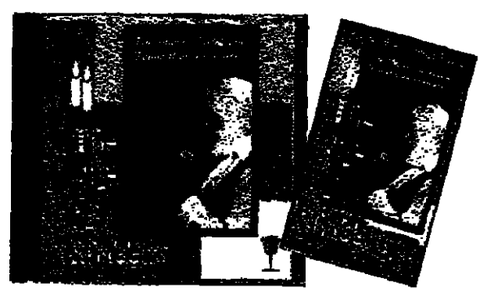
But no. Woodruff stayed in San Francisco about 10 years, commuting to New York from about 1976. He was one of the founders of San Francisco's Eureka Theater and one of the first directors to work with Shepard.

He directed the first production of *Buried Child* at San Francisco's Magic Theater in 1979 and then again at the late Joseph Papp's Public Theater in New York, where he also did the ill-fated *Curse of the Starving Class* and *True West*.

Woodruff and Shepard worked together until around 1987 when "he turned more to acting and I started to work more with dead guys," he says.

Not that the contemporary stage doesn't have great writers, he hastens to add, it's that "the classics provide more fuel for the imagination. The passions and the emotions are bigger. They have more of a statement to make."

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Quality counts

The picture painted by this year's just-released Statistical Abstract of Israel is of a wealthy, growing, successful country. The average Israeli is living longer, traveling more, and eating better. Based upon this snapshot compiled during Israel's 50th year, the nation has much to be proud of. Attention should be paid, however, to some trends that need to be reversed.

Perhaps the most impressive statistic is the most comprehensive one: the total population of just under 6 million, representing a 740 percent increase since 1948. Just since 1990, Israel's population has grown by almost 30 percent, mostly due to the roughly one million immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Today, Israel's population is still growing at a rate of 2.5 percent per year, considerably higher than most Western countries.

Despite this growth, Israel, like most nations that have joined the club of "developed" countries, has become less crowded. In 1960, over 20 percent of Jewish households lived three or more persons to a room; by 1997, this figure dropped by a factor of 34 – to 0.6 percent.

We also are a healthier country: since 1975, average life expectancy has risen by six years, to 79.9 years for women and 76.3 years for men. Infant mortality has also dropped by about one third in just six years (1990-1996) for both Jewish and Arab Israelis, yet the Arab rate is exactly twice that among Jews (10 infant deaths per thousand compared to 5 per thousand for Jews).

In general, major gaps remain in most spheres between Arab and Jewish Israelis, though the health and welfare of Arab Israelis has improved considerably and far exceeds the levels in neighboring Arab countries. Israel should not, however, be satisfied by comparisons with neighboring countries: Israeli Arabs compare themselves with their Jewish neighbors. The gaps need to be closed by increased investment in education, services, and infrastructure in the Arab sector.

One area where the gaps between Jews and Arabs – and within the Jewish population – are evident is in household goods. The abstract reveals that, while on average 27 percent of households have a personal computer, there are wide disparities: in the commuter suburb of Maccabim-Re'ut a record 86 percent have computers at home, compared to 15 percent in Ofakim, and fewer than 10 percent in many Arab villages. The computer is a handy catch-all measure of education, of employment in the modern economy, and of upward mobility. The abstract does not reveal whether income gaps are narrowing or growing, but the data on computer ownership indicate that such gaps may remain stubbornly large for some time.

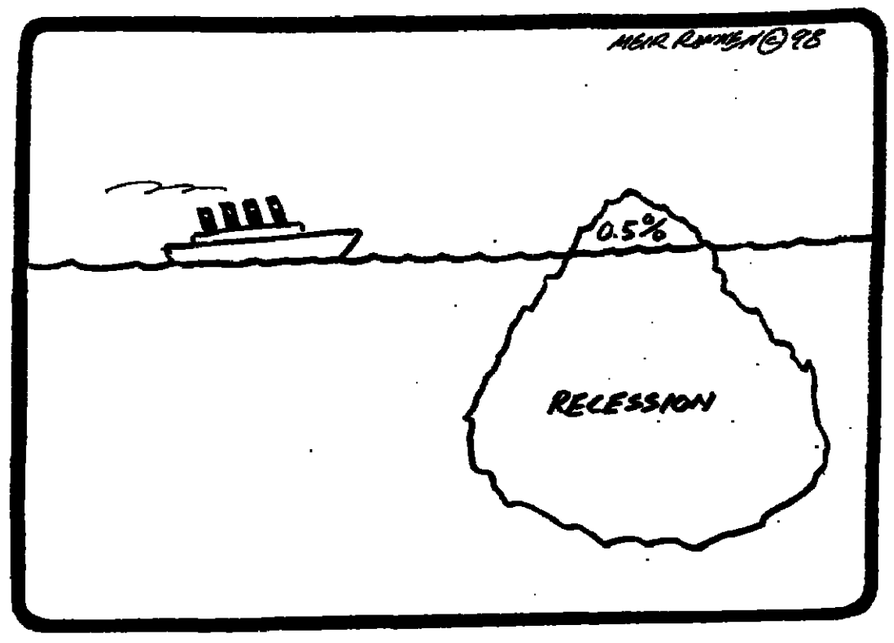
A measure of prosperity that seems to cut across the board is the Israeli indulgence in travel abroad. Since 1991, the Israelis tourist exodus has ballooned from one million to 2.5 million per year. Incoming tourism has shot up over the same period – despite the drop in visits to Israel in the past two years, tourism remains almost twice as high as in 1990.

At the same time as Israelis seem to be bursting out of the country, they cannot contain themselves safely on the roads. Though road deaths were down from the 1974 peak of 714 to 530 last year, the numbers of road injuries and the accidents that caused them rose steadily, peaking in 1997 at 47,451 and 25,491 respectively. Like most statistics, these faceless numbers fail to capture the tremendous cost in human lives lost or changed forever, a toll higher than all Israel's war casualties combined.

The fact that the number of serious accidents has grown more slowly than the density of cars on the roads should not be cause for a moment's rest or self-congratulation. Despite all the public awareness and political lip service to combating the carnage on the roads, the official response to the problem can best be described as haphazard, incompetent, and complacent.

The new transportation minister, Shaul Yahalom, like his predecessors, declared war against the problem upon taking the job, yet nothing effective has been done. No transportation minister has taken the job seriously enough to ask his bureaucracy and the police a simple question: how did other countries around the world drastically reduce road deaths and why can we not do the same? If he does not accept the predictable stonewalling, he will find the answer: tighten enforcement with speed cameras, keep a lid on speed limits, force businesses to keep their trucks and drivers safe, and do not reduce the driving age.

The road-safety challenge is just one area where cold statistics should inspire us to do better, rather than accept misleading measures of improvement. In addition, beyond this hefty volume of facts and figures are the many challenges that cannot be quantified, such as lessening the coarseness of Israeli society, particularly in the realm of democratic debate. The statistical abstract points to rising numbers attending theater and opera, but any increase in cultural appreciation has not reduced the decibel level in the Knesset. As life in Israel improves on the quantitative front, we can afford to pay attention to quality as well.



Politics & (im)morality

DAVID NEWMAN

What is the difference between Bill Clinton and Binyamin Netanyahu. Two simple answers spring to mind. First of all, Netanyahu owned up and came clean in his public television interview. He didn't try to conceal his affair.

Secondly, to the best of our knowledge, he then modified his behavior.

Self-righteousness is not a characteristic unknown to politicians. No doubt there will be some on the House Judicial Committee, and even more in the Congress who, when discussing whether the president should be impeached or not, will suffer momentary forgetfulness of their own past affairs and infidelities.

For after all, it seems fairly obvious to most observers that the move to have Clinton removed from office, if indeed it comes to that, is influenced more by political allegiances and loyalties than it is about Clinton's infidelities.

In their fight for political control of the country, the Republican-dominated Congress would like nothing better than to go down in history as having brought about the first ever presidential impeachment while a Democrat was in office.

Israel's leaders too, have had their own fair share of adulterers. The best known of all was war hero and general Moshe Dayan who could do little wrong in the eyes of the public. He could scavenge archaeological sites for his own personal benefit, and have as many lovers as he wanted.

This did not deter even the most respectable supporter of traditional family values, Menachem Begin, from offering him a position in his new government in 1977.

Netanyahu got away with his own personal infidelities by making a public apology. Had Clinton, in the Gennifer Flowers affair, acted like Netanyahu and stopped at that point, he would not be in the embarrassing situation he finds himself now. But he chose to go on and continue to have backroom flirtations in the very corridors of power at the White House itself.

Netanyahu learned his lesson; Clinton did not

Every likelihood is that if Netanyahu had continued in his old ways, inviting personal assistants into his office for private meetings, this would not have passed without comment.

With Netanyahu's victory, the self-appointed Israeli version of the moral majority, the religious and haredi parties, displayed their own brand of self-righteousness. They had little hesitation in supporting Netanyahu's coalition government, once they had been promised their share of the public purse and ministerial appointments.

After all, what party really cares about traditional family values when it can squeeze the government for millions of dollars for its own sectoral interests.

And if one makes the point that this is probably even more immoral and obnoxious than the personal infidelities of the person with whom they are dealing, they give an apologetic shrug, a meek smile, as if to say "this is the way of the world, what can we do about it?"

WHICH of the two self-appointed moral guardians of their societies are more self-righteous? Those who, in America, will try to impeach their president for his lax moral standards, or those in Israel, who for the love of handouts and ministerial posts, will conveniently forget them?

It is the French who have led the way with their political maturity in matters of personal affairs. It was of no interest, or importance, to the French public that president Mitterand had a mistress and illegitimate child who, attending his funeral, were accorded a place of honor. So too, it would appear, that in Israel while the media may take an interest in the personal affairs of its leaders, it is unlikely they would be driven from office for such misdemeanors.

But however political the motivation, it would be equally wrong to simply dismiss Clinton's behavior. He may well argue that his personal life is, and should be of, no interest to the general public and that it does not reflect his ability to manage and administer to the needs of the country.

But like it or not, the president, like those before him, has achieved the single most important and powerful position in the world. He is there for all to see and watch. While the faults, follies and indiscretions of the person in the street may often go without comment, a leader of a country cannot expect to be treated the same way. He/she has placed themselves on a pedestal above the rest of the population and should not, therefore, complain if they are judged to a higher standard.

The cigar-smoking Netanyahu, with all his faults, appears to have learned this lesson, while Clinton has not.

Starving for love

RUTHIE BLUM

Two magazine articles on the weekend caught my eye. One was about a war between two major diet companies; the other was about the personal battle of two girls and their families against anorexia.

Though perhaps an editorial coincidence, the appearance of these stories in the same issue constitutes more than mere literary irony.

The first time I heard the word "anorexia" was in junior high school. Though the term was new to me, the phenomenon it described was not.

From about the age of 12, my girlfriends and I spent as much time obsessing about our weight as we did about boys.

For us, nothing was more offensive than being told we had gained a few pounds, even – nay, especially – if it was in reference to our budding puberty. Rather than feeling flattered by comments about our blossoming bodies, we were humiliated. Rather than welcoming the appearance of breasts and hips, we were repelled.

It was not only imperative in 1970 America for girls to be skinny, but desirable for us to be flat-chested and hipless as well. To be mistaken for a boy (save for long, flowing hair) was what we all most aspired to – without being consciously aware of it.

Food, which previously had been something eaten more out of boredom than with gusto, now became the focus of our passion as well as of our dread. Sustenance for us pubescent nymphs became a major source of ambivalence. An evil seducer. The enemy.

In seventh-grade biology class, the teacher told us to keep a log of every morsel and drop we put into our mouths in a given day. This, we were told, was for the purpose of learning to examine our nutritional intake. But we knew the ugly truth: that doing so was really a way of getting us to see what pigs we were, and to cause us to reduce this intake drastically.

It was then that we began exchanging dietary 'tricks of the trade' and began to pop diuretics and laxatives

I remember how we were horrified to discover the amount of calories contained in an orange. We practically fainted at the thought that a bag of potato chips nearly exceeded a day's caloric limit.

IT was then that we began exchanging dietary "tricks of the trade," and weighing ourselves regularly, grimacing at our reflections in store windows as we walked down the street. It was then that we began to pop diuretics and laxatives – one brand of which, at least, had the decency to resemble a chocolate bar.

And it was then that we all started to smoke – one oral fixation free of calories, and "glamorous" to boot.

This only worsened in high school. In tenth grade, one of my buddies became a full-fledged anorexic, much to the unspoken envy of the rest of the girls. In a matter of weeks, she became so thin that she began to wear her 7-year-old brother's pants to school.

She was the only one of us who didn't forge her parent's signature on gym-class exemptions. She exercised constantly and ate only carrot sticks. When someone pointed out to her that this particular vegetable contained twelve calories apiece, she stuck her fingers down her throat in the girls' bathroom, then switched to cucumbers.

That some of us had mothers who tried to reassure us about our beauty by recounting tales of bra-stuffing days of yore, made no difference whatsoever. Our mothers, after all, were also always on a diet.

It was not until many years later that this disease of the soul was given any attention in Israel. Now it threatens to be as widespread as the health club and the weight-loss elixir.

Those of my sons' female classmates given the "thumbs up" sign of approval by their peers all look as if they'd just stepped out of a concentration camp. Whether any of them is actually on the slippery slope to self-starvation I cannot say.

One thing I do know, however, is that most of their mothers spend as much time and money on the burning of body mass as they do on the preparation of food.

Some might consider this phenomenon ironic. As a mother – who was once a teenage girl – I'd call it a tragedy.

The final word

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY Jr.

Questioner: The whole Lewinsky thing just isn't important. Private sex life... It would be no big deal in France.

Solomon: But it is a big deal here. Clinton thought it was a big deal.

Q: How so?

S: He was willing to lie about it, to stake his credibility with the American people, with his staff, with Congress, with his friends. He wouldn't have done that if he considered it no big deal.

Q: But he has promised not to do it again. And people who know him well say they absolutely believe him, that he won't do it again.

S: But if it's no big deal, why should he promise not to do it again? If it's just a routine sexual escapade, why shouldn't he be told he can do it as often as he likes?

Q: The point is, Clinton *needed* Lewinsky. It was simply a biological matter, an unruly appetite that he yielded to because he had to yield to it.

S: No, that's wrong. He didn't *need* to yield to it.

Most of the time he *didn't* yield to it. Lewinsky was with him 37 times, and they had sex 10 times, so that means that his appetites were in fact governable and that he didn't govern them.

Q: But you agree that if he had disclosed the affair last January, he would have been forgiven for it?

S: The proper sequence is: (1) contrition, (2) penance, (3) absolution. But contrition has to be the initiative of the wrongdoer. If Johnny approaches his mother and confesses that he didn't go to school yesterday and feels bad about it and asks that she forgive him, she is likelier to do so persuasively than if he was caught skipping school. True contrition in that situation – when you have been detected – is problematic. There is no way of establishing that Clinton is sorry for what he did as distinguished from being sorry that he was caught doing it.

Lewinsky was a sign of gravely defective judgment

Q: You speak of punishment. How can you *punish* a president?

S: You can't. A censure vote is a mere pothole in Clinton's life journey.

The presidential way of life is the great lure of the office. Air Force One, the White House celebrity dinners, the daily access to television, the rush of courtiers fawning and chiefs of state supplicating. As long as you have all of that – a continuation of power and the usufructs of office – no punishment smarts, let alone incapacitates.

Q: Why then does the Clinton camp oppose censure, if it wouldn't hurt him?

S: The opposition is formalistic. If Congress weighs the question whether to censure, it won't be weighing the question whether to impeach. Clinton would be overjoyed if censure was all that comes of Lewinsky.

Q: Inasmuch as you aren't thinking in terms of "punishment," what are you thinking of?

S: Removal from office.

Q: But that is a form of punishment, surely you'd agree?

S: Clinton would think of it as punishment, but Congress should think of it as something else, as necessary hygiene. The idea is to *remove* him from office, not because of the sex but because of his judgment.

Q: Explain.

S: This wasn't a one-night loss of perspective. It lasted over 16 months.

That was a sign of gravely defective judgment, during which Lewinsky ended up telling 11 people about her presidential trysts. To expose oneself to such a risk is to forfeit title to such balance in judgment as one expects in a president. To go on to deny everything, only to be uncovered eight months later as a liar and perjurer, is a critical misjudgment. One that calls to order the resources of the Constitution, to bring on the next in line of succession to exercise the job of the chief executive having pledged, with intent to observe, faithfully to execute the nation's laws, and to live by them.

(Universal Press Syndicate)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GAMBLING WEAKNESS

Sir, – An Austrian casino developer has decided that it is very important for him to open a casino in Jericho because he envisions making millions and millions of dollars.

I would like to know how Israel is going to handle this situation. Are we going to give permission for Israelis to come and gamble away their money and to profit the resident Arabs ("Palestinians") thereby?

The resident Arabs themselves are forbidden to go into this casino.

Why should our Israelis be given access into Jericho when they are in danger of going everywhere else where the "Palestinian" Authority has been set up and functioning.

Is gambling such a worthy cause that Israelis should risk their lives so that the Austrian millionaire and the resident Arabs should profit from Israeli weakness of character.

TOBY WILLIG

Jerusalem

PEACE IN OUR TIME

Sir, – Naomi Chazan's article "Oslo then and now" (September 11) reminds me of prime minister Neville Chamberlain's letter signed by Nazi demon Hitler.

She speaks about an agreement of "wishful thinking," not mentioning the massacre in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Chamberlain achieved the same result in his time. We received terror instead of peace. While we were giving away territory, the other party not only spoke openly about jihad, but implemented it on our civilian population.

Peace is dear to all of us. But you need two parties to fulfill an agreement on peace. So far, just one side, the Israelis, have fulfilled it. The second one prepares its public and even its children for war.

BINYAMIN YAFFE

Haifa.

KLEINER SHOULD RESIGN

Sir, – I understand that MK Michael Kleiner has severed his connection with the Gesher Party, and yet he remains a Knesset member.

Kleiner was not elected directly. He is a Knesset member only because his name appeared on the Gesher list. Surely if he leaves Gesher, he must give up his Knesset seat.

ELI RUDER

Ra'anana.

NEW WORLD DISORDER

Sir, – Stephen Rosenfeld rightly describes the "raggedness of a world scene teeming with unruly actors." He correctly perceives that some problems "may not be soluble in the new world disorder in his article "A world full of unruly actors" (September 11).

Yet he calls for American action and initiatives to deal with these ills, failing to acknowledge that US actions and initiatives have helped to create and perpetuate – and in some cases aggravate – the ills that he deplores.

The United States has been the driving force sanctifying the Oslo Accords and pushing for Israel's fulfillment of its obligations under those accords, while overlooking the refusal of the PLO to honor its own Oslo commitments. This policy can only lead to more of the horrors of our new world disorder.

But this US (and general Western) failure to demand PLO/PA compliance with their commitments, is only part of the problem. The very fact that the US (and the West) were ready to accept the PLO and its leader Yasser Arafat as legitimate international "players" after all the mass murders and other atrocities perpetrated by the PLO, gives a kind of international approval to the kind of crimes committed by the PLO, and therefore can only encourage others throughout the world to perpetrate such crimes.

ELLIOT A. GREEN

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On September 16, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that Arab armies were preparing to launch a big attack on Israel on the eve of the Paris meeting of the UN General Assembly. The Arab cease-fire violations continued on all fronts and two Jews were seriously wounded by Arab snipers in Jerusalem.

Israel had become affiliated to the International Emergency Food Council and had received its first allocation.

25 years ago: On September 16, 1973, Ari Rath, *The Jerusalem Post*'s managing editor, cabled directly from Santiago an eyewitness account on Chile's military coup and the toppling of the Allende government.

Alexander Zvielli

POSTSCRIPT

DWAYNE FISHBONE Richardson has finally achieved his goal: He has become a train operator in the New York City subway system.

Richardson, an imposing presence who has a mohawk hair cut and weighs 204 kilo, started cleaning stations in 1988 because he thought that was the fast track to becoming a motorman.

But six years ago, he flunked a physical, conking out within three minutes on a treadmill. Transit officials told him he was too heavy to drive a train.

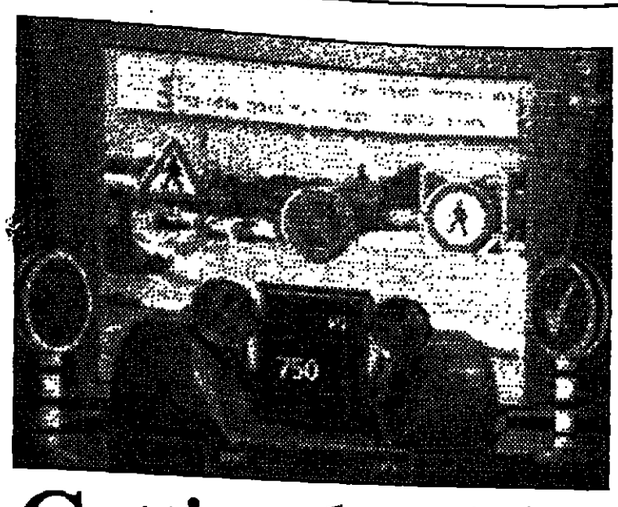
Richardson lost numerous equal-opportunity appeals before filing a federal lawsuit accusing his bosses of flouting the Americans With Disabilities Act by not promoting him. They relented, and Richardson passed another physical.

"I'm just happy they gave me the opportunity to prove I belong," Richardson, 31, said. "It's the realization of my dreams."

He said he'll never forget being given a brake handle for the first time. "I couldn't keep my eyes off it," he said. "For half the day, I just held it in my hand, like Thor and his hammer."

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Getting back to school safely



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Ma She'batuah (Just To Be on the Safe Side), a CD-ROM in Hebrew by the Center for Educational Technology (CET) in Ramat Aviv, for children aged seven to 14, sold by The Jerusalem Post's Book Department and other outlets, NIS 149.
Rating: ★★★★★

Now that children are back in class, albeit after a week's delay due to the teachers' strike, parents have begun worrying whether their kids will be safe on their way to and from school and extracurricular activities. Although many elementary schools offer an hourly lesson in road safety, it's difficult to teach youngsters how to internalize the need for anticipating danger, especially when they're busy talking to friends or have their minds on something else.

This excellent interactive, multimedia program, produced by the non-profit Center for Educational Technology (CET) together with the Education Ministry's road-safety branch, gets the message across not by lecturing on the do's and don'ts, but also on the whys of safe behavior in the streets.

Going over the program for hours with my seven-year-old son, whose Jerusalem school is still computerless but who studied road safety once a week in first grade, I found that the disk teaches many things that he never learned from those frontal lessons.

Avry Gilad, the well-known TV show presenter, is an outstanding host and teacher on the disk. With much humor, he and the cartoon character that represents him demonstrate safe road behavior without lecturing or being a nudnik. He dresses like most kids (in jeans, and with a red brimmed cap facing backwards), speaks their language and accompanies youngsters actually filmed on video as they go to a movie, school or the pool. It presents the reality of Israeli driving manners, not the ideal of cars coming to a dead halt at a stop sign and avoiding sideswiping at a crosswalk.

In the main section, Avry presents commonplace situations faced by the traffic-challenged youngster. He's trying to cross at a crosswalk to meet his friends at a movie, but vehicles continue to zoom by. In an ironic scene, he waits so long that he puts up a tent and builds a campfire on the sidewalk, and complains that by the time he crosses and reaches the cinema, his friends will already have "finished the army, gotten married, had children and grandchildren." But then he explains how to cross safely: wait for a vehicle to stop completely; don't lean over into the street; establish eye contact with the driver; and don't complete the crossing before ensuring that no cars are overtaking the halted vehicle from the other side.

Users learn that it's better to move to a straight section of a road rather than crossing just after a sharp turn, and that crossing just before an intersection is safer than in the middle of a road because drivers tend to slow down when there's cross traffic. They are also taught the Israeli law of the road jungle not to trust a driver's signaling: he may have flashed that he's going left, but he could easily be going right.

An effective part is a simulation of dangers in waiting for, getting on and exiting a bus. Avry the cartoon character sits down in the driver's seat, and you can easily appreciate the many blind spots behind, at the side and even in front of the bus. The safest place to wait is opposite the front doors, but not at the edge of the curb: turning pupils into imaginary bowling pins, Avry shows that a bus that nears the curb at an angle can hit them. A pupil who sticks his head out of the bus window is transformed into a head of cabbage: it's knocked off when the bus starts and moves next to an electricity pole. The program even explains why it's important to give up your seat to pregnant women and elderly persons who would lose their balance.

A very enjoyable section turns the computer mouse into brakes and the screen into a windshield. Driving on the road, you must click the mouse as soon as you see a yellow character about to step off the sidewalk; your reaction time and braking distance is recorded in numbers, and you can vary road conditions by changing speed, choosing a wet road or night driving. The dashboard even allows you to select one of three musical backgrounds on the radio.

An extensive quiz, with the aim of earning 5,000 points and reducing your score for errors, tests users on their knowledge of specific traffic rules and signs including how to behave on a bicycle. Answering these questions, and reviewing those you didn't get correctly, really teach proper and safe road behavior.

The final section is the "editing room," in which kids can watch a video clip of a girl on the road and select safe alternatives for her to follow. At the end, they will have a film that they themselves produced from the various clips.

Working on this program should become mandatory for all children from age six (why wait for seven?), and it wouldn't hurt for their parents to look over their shoulders to refresh their memories of traffic rules.



Go On Reading, a CD-ROM in English and Hebrew by the Center for Educational Technology, part III of the English Club series, for ages 10 to 13, NIS 299.
Rating: ★★★★½

The difficulty in teaching English as a foreign language is to make the lessons enjoyable and at the same time serious enough to get across the rules of grammar and an extensive vocabulary.

This disk, one of the many excellent pieces of software produced by the Center for Educational Technology, manages to teach and review the material without banishing the fun.

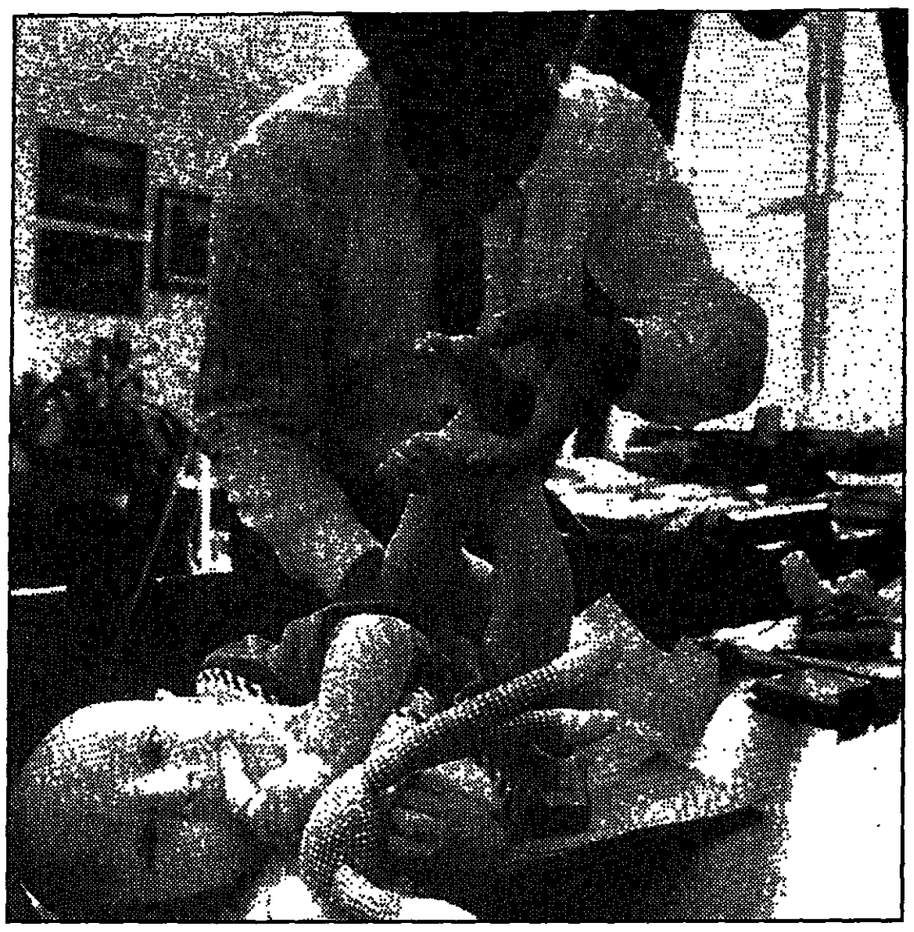
There are four sections – The Dog Show, The Story of Meg, The Magic Show and A Mad Band, each on a different theme. Click on them one at a time; each has a presenter who tells a story using printed text (or an oral story whose text can be optionally omitted for the more advanced pupil). If you choose to view the text, you can also click on a built-in dictionary that will explain all the words, sentence by sentence. You then proceed to sections for recording your own voice reading the text, doing exercises and playing games.

You proceed through half a dozen lessons in each section, collecting many new words and phrases and reviewing them all with the games and exercises. Click the "More" button and you get a bonus of more games (such as requiring you to find English words on a grid with 121 spaces), plus activities, a place to include information about you and a writing center (for producing a poster or a photo album).

Kids will like and learn from this rich program; if your child is very motivated and you feel you can forgo the hefty helping of animation and music in exchange for more intensive language study, try the *English Plus* series, produced by Edusoft.

Raising a powerful woman

Faced with studies that show preteen girls lacking in self-confidence, Rick Weiss determines to foster assertiveness in his two-year-old. But it isn't simple



From day one of daddyhood: An ongoing effort to prop up daughter's self-esteem. (Washington Post)

My daughter Katherine came into this world not with a whimper or a wail but with a single, explosive, almost-deafening shout. "Ho!" she bellowed.

The affirmative force of that declaration took me by complete surprise. How could someone so new to the world launch so robust an expression of self-confidence?

It must have been a moment of unimaginable confusion for her, what with the world getting turned suddenly inside out, the avalanche of light and air, the roar of the crowd around the bedside. Yet my girl did not flinch.

Afraid though she may have been, she lunged at the world. She scooped out a space of her own on this crowded planet, and I felt certain that she would have no trouble filling it.

Lately, however, I have begun to worry. Not because my daughter has become less assertive; as a new matriculant to the Terrible Twos, she is, if anything, more domineering than ever. Rather, I am concerned about my own ability to encourage her independence while performing my other parental duties, which largely amount to variations on a theme of "No!"

I am aware of studies that show a precipitous decline in self-confidence among girls (but not boys) in their preteen years. So from my first day of daddyhood I committed myself to preventing that debilitating syndrome.

As a young girl my daughter will know how to throw a ball, I promised. As an older girl she'll be comfortable with power tools. As a young woman she won't opt for a passenger seat just because a male driver's available. And as an adult she'll be sassy and sharp.

Just two years into my program of benevolent empowerment, however, I can already see how naive I was. My philosophical commitment to Katherine's unfettered growth keeps running up against practical realities, like my need to keep her from breaking her neck and my preference that she not draw on the walls.

What I really want, I realize shamefully, is a daughter who's tough as nails with everyone except me. But how can I set limits without also setting her up for the ego collapse to which she is supposedly so predisposed? I have looked at some of the many recent books on how to raise a strong and independent girl, most notably the very practical and believable *Growing a Girl*, by Barbara Mackoff (Dell, 1996).

Many of these books view a young girl's first assertions as "trial balloons" launched by her budding ego to see how they fly. The best thing a parent can do, these books say, is to acknowledge these tentative expressions as valid, and not belittle or "correct" them to fit an adult perspective. The idea is to recognize your daughter as the ultimate authority on matters of her own experience – to solidify her psychological center of gravity so she won't get so easily pushed around by others.

That strikes me as a reasonable philosophy, but I've been surprised at how often I fail to follow it.

For example, Katherine has lately been expressing the idea that certain things are "scary" to her.

Spiders, whether in storybooks or on the back porch, were among her favorite creatures until they became inexplicably scary a few weeks ago.

My responses have basically been to disabuse her of her fears. "Spiders aren't scary," I've told her. "Spiders are your friends."

But as Mackoff notes, who am I to deny that something is scary to my daughter? Why not acknowledge the fear, thus strengthening Katherine's authority over her own feelings, and then use the opportunity to explore those feelings further with a question, such as: "What is it about spiders that makes them scary?" That could present an opportunity to clear up a misconception (such as that most of them bite) and even to introduce something positive, such as their appetite for mosquitoes.

Mackoff offers other examples of subtle parental undercuts, some of which I have heard in my own home: Daughter: "I'm not hungry." Parent: "Just eat a few bites." Daughter: "I'm hot." Parent: "How can you be hot?" Some of Mackoff's other examples I can easily imagine hearing in the future.

Daughter: "The next time he makes fun of me I'm going to punch him in the face." Parent: "Calm down. We don't hit people." Daughter: "Robin is the meanest sister in the world; all she does is boss me around." Parent: "That's not nice, I know you love your sister."

These replies may seem like very small insults to a girl's confidence, but small insults can add up over the years. They may also seem non-gender-specific – as likely to be used with boys as with girls. But are they? As Eleanor E. Maccoby points out in *The Two Sexes* (Harvard University Press, 1998), several studies have concluded that parents more often try to control their daughters' behavior than their sons'. Similarly, teachers are more likely to step in and change the course of play involving girls than they are with boys.

Indeed, there is evidence that many or most of the differences between young boys and girls are not so much biologically programmed as they are the result of subtle, continuous and largely unconscious cues delivered by adults (in person, on television, in magazines) about "gender-appropriate" appearance and behavior.

Again, looking at my own experience, I see how difficult it can be to stay above this sexist fray.

What about the daily hair-brushing ritual, my blurted exclamations of how pretty she is? And what about this makeup thing? Although my wife wears very little makeup, Katherine is already entranced by mommy's little beauty activities, and loves to brush a little blush on her cheeks.

More generally, I have to ask myself: If Katherine were a boy would I perhaps be more forgiving of her rambunctious behavior? When she throws food across the room, for example, I have two reactions: "We don't throw food!" and "Hey! Good arm!" It occurs to me that if Katherine were a Keith I might at least communicate both concepts, encouraging her to work on that sidearm with something other than her cereal. Yet my girl has heard nothing but stern words when the food has flown.

What I really want, I realize shamefully, is a daughter who's tough as nails with everyone except me

Is it these kinds of things that, taken together, contribute to the female nose dive in self-esteem documented in the now classic 1991 study of 3,000 young students commissioned by the American Association of University Women? In that study, 60 percent of elementary-school girls said they were "happy the way I am," but only 29 percent still felt that way in high school, a 50 percent drop.

By contrast, the percentage of boys agreeing with that statement fell from 60 to 43 during the same years, a drop of only 28 percent.

In high school, less than a third of girls said they were "pretty good at a lot of things," while almost half of the boys agreed with that statement – a 19 percent "confidence gap." The study also found that, when asked what they liked most about themselves, boys were twice as likely as girls to list various talents, while girls were more likely to take pride in their looks.

I realize that there is only so much I can do to keep my girl from becoming such a shadow of her present-day self, but now I watch for the little ego hits that might kindle an eventual meltdown.

I now think twice before saying "No" to all of Katherine's "I wanna do its." She wants to turn the water off in the bathtub by herself? I'm in a hurry, but why not? I turn off the hot, then let her work on the cold. She wants to drag the sprinkler to the garden? Okay, I've got a few extra minutes.

Katherine wants to this. Katherine wants to that. Wait a minute. Suddenly, my effort to grow a self-empowered girl is turning into a classic case of raising a spoiled brat! Where have I gone wrong?

After a while I figured out the difference between indulging my daughter's desire for things and indulging her desire to accomplish things. The former obviously cannot be endlessly obliged, but the latter, it seems to me, can hardly be encouraged enough. And happily, it doesn't seem to upset her if she fails in these endeavors; all she wants is a chance to try.

Recently, for example, after dragging the sprinkler to the center of the lawn, she wanted to turn on the outdoor faucet by herself. She didn't have the strength to twist that rusty old knob, but she grunted valiantly and then accepted my help. I placed my hand over hers and we turned it together, and her shriek of pure glee as the water began to flow told me everything I needed to know about the ego-enhancing power of small accomplishments.

I am the first to admit that all this cogitating about how to raise a child is perhaps overdone. Does everything these days, even child rearing, have to be high art? Perhaps not, but I am even more put off by a new perspective on parenting that has lately been gaining credibility in psychology circles.

In that view, parents like myself are largely wasting their time because we have shockingly little influence over our children anyway.

The "parents don't matter" school started a few years ago with a handful of studies of twins reared apart. The data from those studies have not been terribly consistent, but some researchers have concluded from them that inherited factors, rather than environmental ones such as parental influences, account for a hefty 50 percent or so of children's temperamental and behavioral patterns.

I don't have a problem with the idea that children are born with certain personality leanings. But lately some researchers have gone farther than this and concluded from a variety of studies that, to the extent that social forces do shape children (that non-genetic 50 percent), it is the children's peers, not we adults, who have virtually all the influence.

According to advocates of this position, notably Judith Rich Harris, an amateur psychologist living in Princeton, N.J., who recently received a prize from the American Psychological Association for her theoretical work, studies have repeatedly failed to find evidence that children are significantly socialized by their parents. Rather, the thinking goes, children look to their friends when it comes to deciding what's okay and what's not, whether it's a question of fashion, politics or morality.

In other words, my wife and I pretty much made our singular contribution to Katherine's development nine months before she was born, and there is little for us to do now but make sure she is clothed and fed and given a reasonable allowance.

There is a certain attraction to this theory. If my influence over Katherine is indeed so minimal, then so is my responsibility for how she turns out. That means I won't have myself to blame if Katherine's budding ego crashes on her 12th birthday – or, for that matter, if she gets arrested for roughing up her classmates.

But I doubt the so-called objective evidence of my parental powerlessness. And I'm certainly not impressed with the supposedly insightful observation, used to bolster the views of the "parents don't matter" school, that kids typically reject their parents' sage advice in favor of whatever is considered "cool" or "in" among their peers.

Of course, kids don't want to be like their parents! For a decade I had hair down to my waist in defiance of my parents and everything they represented. For today's adolescents it's body piercing.

God knows what my little Katherine and her peers will come up with to torture me and my wife in our dotage.

But I also know that, despite my best efforts to the contrary, my parents have had a big effect on me. I'm able to teach Katherine about tools today because my dad put a hammer in my hand when I could still hardly lift one. I'm able to pass along some sense of ethics in part because when my mother caught me using fake credit-card numbers to make long-distance phone calls in high school, she gave me a lecture about honesty that I'll never forget. (Can you imagine one of my peers scolding me like that?) And because my parents hugged openly and often in our home, I learned firsthand that one of the best ways to raise a happy and secure child is to raise that child in a loving home.

In short I know, because I have parents, that parents matter a lot. And no amount of evidence, scientific or otherwise, is going to convince me otherwise.

(The Washington Post)

Will three children be a crowd?



By Ruth Mason

A group of mothers of two, hesitant over having a third child, decided to get some advice from the "experts." They invited over some mothers of three so they could pick their brains. In today's column we eavesdrop on their questions, answers, hopes and fears.

Shoshana, mother of three, gets the ball rolling: "What's your hesitation?"

Lisa, mother of two, "We're a very child-centered household. Do I have it in me emotionally to have another child? Yet all my life I've wanted to have four children. I grew up with three siblings, and I feel two children somehow isn't a family.

"With three, I'd definitely have to work full time, so I would have less time with all my children. Also, I've had two healthy kids; I'm terribly afraid that something wouldn't be right with the baby.

"And then there are the voices inside my head – like my mother's – saying 'You're crazy!' "

Bracha (a physician, mother of three): "The key issues are time and money. Life becomes extremely demanding. With three, you really have no time or space to do anything for yourself. You have to make a special effort to spend time with the kids.

"We have friends who take each kid out of school one day every few months so they can spend real time with them."

Bayla (mom of two): "Maybe I have too rosy a view, but I see my older ones filling a special role with a new baby. A third might add more to their lives instead of taking away time."

Bracha: "There are two really great things about having three kids: You have this extra, wonderful, loving person in your life. And three makes for a new dynamic between the kids."

Shoshana: "I got some pretty critical comments when I was pregnant with my third. Someone said, You're doing so well in your career – why would you want to set yourself back?

"It's really hell for a limited period of time. There's never enough for the kids. In my worst moments, I think you're always failing when you have three.

"Someone's needs are always unmet. The un-needy kids get lost in the cracks. With two, I felt we were always in control. Not with three. It's endless."

Bayla: "Are you able to spend time individually with them?"

Shoshana: "It's a contemporary expectation that we give our children this individual attention. My mother didn't raise us that way."

Bracha: "I have patients who have 12, 13 children. I really babied my children... My 11-year-old daughter could be more helpful around the house. If I knew I'd have three kids, I would have worked on [having the kids do] chores. I was too tired to work on it."

Lisa: "I have a fantasy that a third would help with the competition between my older two, who are 19 months apart... that the roles would change."

Bracha: "I see a lot of rivalry between my kids. Also, with a third, you're older, you have less energy. A third child changes your life. You have less time, less money."

Shoshana: (agreeing) "My husband and I go out every Saturday night – and we discuss the logistics of our lives! We went away for a weekend recently and it was great. I remembered, 'Oh, that's why I married him!' "

Bracha: "Having three is harder on your marital relationship. It complicates your life in ways you can't always predict. The calendar becomes an icon. You pray it doesn't become too crowded!"

Shoshana: "There are tricks you can use. Pay your older kids three shekels an hour to watch the youngest.

"I was always very careful not to ask the older ones to babysit. But the whole dynamic changed when I said, Can I pay you to watch the baby for an hour? Motti became this responsible, wonderful older brother."

Bracha: "How much you want another child is a powerful factor. It balances the added complications to a life that's already difficult.

"No matter how many doubts you have, once you have the child, you won't regret it. But there will be a lot of times when you'll be really on the edge, when you're barely coping. A nice peaceful existence is not in store."

Shoshana: "I never felt as stressed with two as with three. But I'd say, Do it. I never heard of anyone regretting it.

"It's such a celebration to have this kid, this naked, wet thing in the bath, trailing water. I'm dying to have a fourth!"

Gardener's Corner



Begonia – real celebrity status

By Batsheva Mink



With spectacular flowers, foliage display and flowering time the begonia adds class to any garden or indoor arrangement.
(Joanna Cushner)



Few garden plants have the celebrity status of the begonia – earned by its spectacular flowers, foliage display and length of flowering time.

The begonia has a fascinating history. Years before a name for the genus was established, many species were known under other names. Asian paintings and fine pieces of art depict begonias, showing that the plant was popular in the Far East hundreds of years ago, before it was discovered by the Western World.

The name Begonia (family *Begoniaceae*) was coined in 1700 by Charles Plumier, a Franciscan monk and botanist who went to the Antilles Islands in 1690 to collect rare plants. He discovered six species which he called Begonia in honor of Michael Begon, who at the time was governor of Santa Domingo.

By the mid-1800s, 210 new species had been discovered. Today there are at least 10,000 types of begonias.

It is often wrongly assumed that Belgium was the birthplace of the garden begonia because so many are grown there. But it was an English nurseryman, James Veitch, who in 1835 recognized the plant's potential and started propagating. At the time, demand for exotic greenhouse plants was at its peak and the wealthy were prepared to pay very high prices.

Hothouse plants were in vogue from then on, as three major discoveries after 1850 further stimulated interest in begonias.

IN 1856, the species *B. rex* was accidentally introduced into England from Assam, India. The *Begonia rex* has large, multicolored leaves with highly varied patterns. Almost immediately, the commercial value of this new colorful species was recognized.

In 1860, the discovery of six tuberous species from the Andes caused great excitement in Europe. Hybridization programs were launched and the *Tuberhybrida* group was born. It is interesting to note that this tuberous hybrid species of begonias grew at 3,000 meters above sea level, accounting for its ability to cope with the temperate climate of Europe.

The Andes begonias are showy and colorful, with large flowers, and are most often sold as houseplants. The spectacular double begonia (*B. tuberhybrida*) has rose-like blooms which can reach the size of a saucer. It is grown mainly as a houseplant but can also be planted out in the garden, provided it is sheltered from direct sun.

In 1878, a Brazilian species, *B. semperflorens*, was discovered by chance in soil brought from Brazil. This species led to the most popular of all bedding plants, rivaled only by the *pelargonium*.

The Brazilian begonia is grown on a very large scale in Israeli nurseries, as well as in many other parts of the world. It is usually bought as a summer bedding plant with zinnias and marigolds and comes in many colors, including white, pink and red. The *Begonia semperflorens* can flower for eight months or longer, depending on the weather in your area. An added attraction is this begonia's glossy green, bronze or red leaves.

For the majority of gardeners, understanding the thousands of begonia varieties can be confusing since the plant defies simple classification. Even the textbooks disagree on how to group the many varieties and hybrids.

Perhaps the simplest way is to sort them out into the three types. Both the tuberous root begonias, which are raised each spring from tubers, and the fibrous rooted begonias, which are raised from seed and cuttings, are grown primarily for their flowers. A third type, the small decorative-leafed begonias, are grown for their foliage and enjoyed as houseplants.

But the adventurous gardener can find much more in the begonia genus than just these three major kinds. There are thousands of other varieties; some, like the *B. coccinea*, can grow up to two meters.

During the last few years, the fibrous-rooted begonias have become very popular as summer bedding plants. This is not surprising when we consider the glorious display they make in the garden, or in pots and boxes.

Begonias are very little trouble, good value for money, long lasting and even grow under trees. They are readily propagated from seeds, cuttings or tubers.

Cultivation

Most begonias prefer soil which is rich in organic matter. In the summer they thrive in the shade but will take full sun during the winter months, so it is a good idea to plant them near deciduous shrubs and trees. If you buy your plants from a nursery, it is a good idea to leave them in a protected corner for a day or two before planting them out. Let them get used to their new surroundings or they may go into shock when they find themselves left to cope in the open ground.

Most begonias are tender plants with soft foliage, intolerant of dry conditions and requiring protection from strong sunlight. Extensive scorching will slow down the rate of growth.

Watering

They do not like to be overwatered – but, on the other hand, don't let them get dry.

Feeding

Every 10 days feed with fertilizer diluted to half strength.

Propagation

Stem cuttings during the summer months can propagate many fibrous-rooted begonias. Use non-flowering shoots about 8-10 cms long and insert in clean potting mix – 50% peat moss and 50% perlite. Cover the container with a polyethylene bag until rooting. Pot singly.

The decorative-leafed begonias are not the easiest of houseplants – they need moist air. Propagate them by taking leaf cuttings in the summer. Use mature, but not old, leaves and nick the main veins underneath the leaf. Lay the leaf on moist clean compost placed at the bottom of a container and use pebbles to hold the leaf in close contact with the surface. Cover container with glass or polyethylene. New plants can be potted up as soon as they have developed two or three leaves.

Cuttings can be rooted by simply placing the lower 3 cms. of stem in a narrow-necked clear glass bottle filled with clean water. Place in a well-lit area at about 18° Celsius. Small roots will appear at the base of the cutting and they should be grown in the usual way. Roots should not be allowed to get too long.

Batsheva Mink is a curator at the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens, Givat Ram.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, POB 3943, Jerusalem 91039.

TIP OF THE WEEK

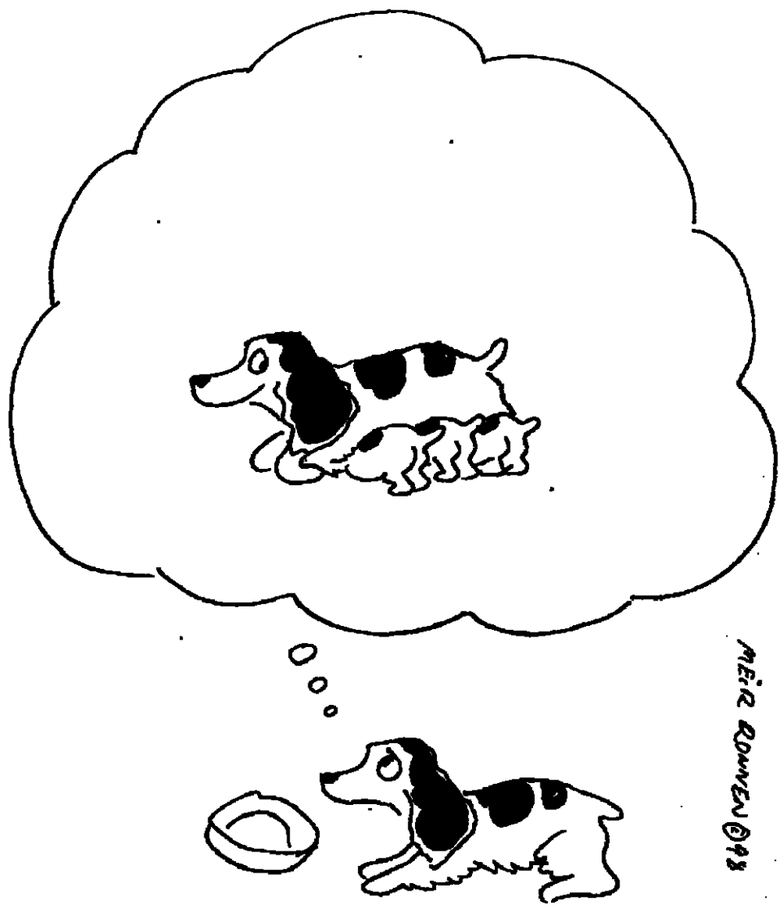
To increase the number of plants from tubers, you can split them in half as one would a potato. Make sure each piece has a shoot (eye), which should be at least 2 cms. high. Dust the cut section with charcoal before potting.

When your pet thinks she's expecting

Heads 'N' Tails



By D'vora Ben Shaul



A three-year-old, spayed cocker spaniel bitch has repeated pseudo-pregnancies and her teats sometimes even produce milk. During this time, she broods in her basket all day, sometimes nuzzling an old woolen sock, and her owners do not know what to do.

Some bitches seem more prone to pseudo-pregnancies than others, but no one knows why. Many have been known to adopt (even steal) kittens or puppies from another bitch and nurse them. Under the powerful impulses of the pseudo-pregnancy, these bitches produce large amounts of the hormone prolactin which makes them produce milk.

Experiments have shown that some animals, even human females, can lactate under the stimulus of parenting. One French study of women waiting to adopt as yet unborn babies found that more than half were able to induce lactation through concentration and massage. I once had a Great Dane bitch that was neither pregnant nor showing signs of pseudo-pregnancy, but when one of my Cana'ani bitches died just after whelping, the Great Dane started to lactate within a few days and raised all four pups herself.

Not a lot is known about the link between emotions and hormones, although there is plenty of reason to suspect that there is a great amount of interplay between the two. We do know that emotional reactions – stress, anxiety etc. – can alter a woman's menstrual cycle and affect attempts to conceive. We also know that these factors can cause great fluctuations in a man's testosterone level.

As for other mammals, we know so little about their mental states that it is hard to make the needed correlations. In most cases, we anthropomorphize. But we really have no way of knowing.

In general, goats occasionally have pseudo-pregnancies and dogs have them quite often. Some breeds are more prone than others with cocker spaniels and Labradors high on the frequency list. Smaller breeds usually have pseudo-pregnancies more commonly than larger breeds except for, as mentioned, Labradors.

In any case, the situation is something that passes in a few weeks. During this broody period, the dog needs gentle handling and a bit of comfort. The best way to speed up the recovery process is to change the bitch's routine. Take her for a walk in a new place or go for a trip in the car. Get her out of the house as much as possible.

Do anything that will, may I say at the risk of anthropomorphizing, get her mind off her problems.

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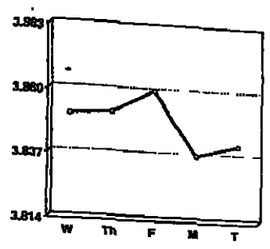
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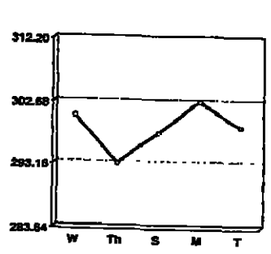
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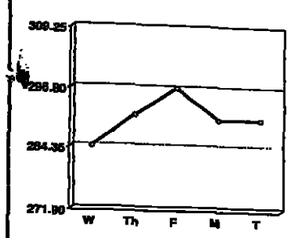
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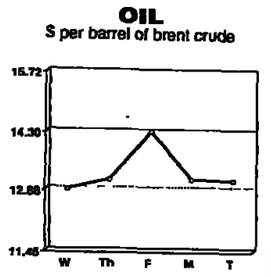
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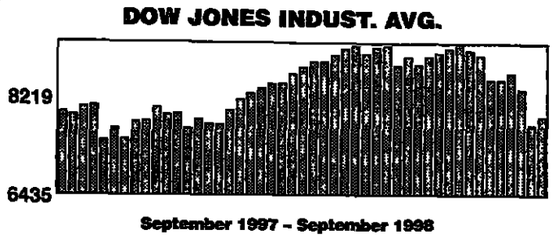


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September 1997 – September 1998

$75m. credit line set for exporters to Uzbekistan

Israel Foreign Trade Risk Insurance Company yesterday signed an agreement with the National Bank for Economic Activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Under the agreement the company will provide a $75 million credit line to Israeli exporters.

In a separate announcement Bank Hapoalim has said it has signed another corporation agreement with the Uzbek bank. The bank said that it currently holding preliminary talks on the possible financing of project in communications. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

Boeing selects Elbit subsidiary

A US subsidiary of Haifa-based Elbit Systems Ltd. has been selected by Boeing Co. to be the producer and supplier for the V-22 Multifunction Display Upgrade Program, company officials said.

EFW Inc., Fort Worth, Texas, will deliver the multifunction display subsystems for 246 V-22 Osprey aircraft for a total value of about $40 million over a period of seven years. The program has the potential for additional systems to equip all 523 V-22s.

The initial contract award is expected within a few weeks. EFW already supplies the Digital Moving Map System for the V-22. Elbit is engaged in a wide range of defense-related airborne, ground, and command, control, and communications programs throughout the world. *Steve Rodan*

Foreign investors held 14.5% of TASE in July

The stake of foreign investors in total TASE traded shares was at 14.5% in July, compared with a record 14.8% posted in May, according to data published by the Bank of Israel yesterday.

The balance of foreign investments on the TASE remained, however, unchanged in July at NIS 23.6 billion, after a fall of NIS 600 million in June.

The statistics still do not pertain to the turmoil in global markets in August, following the economic crisis in Russia. Based on analysts' estimates, August's TASE figures, which have not yet been released, are expected to reveal a further drop in the foreign investors' stake in total shares traded in Tel Aviv. *Globes*

Dollar helps push CPI up 0.5%

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Recent turmoil in the currency markets, which has resulted in a strengthened dollar and a weakened shekel, helped push the Consumer Price Index 0.5 percent higher in August, to 157.1 points, the Central Bureau of Statistics said yesterday.

The shekel had shed more than 5% of its dollar value during last month's global market mayhem, plunging from as high as NIS 3.62 to as low as NIS 3.86.

In a year which has so far seen three negative monthly CPI's, including July's -0.1%, August's figure ranks second to April's 1.4%.

Since the beginning of the year inflation has been 3.2% and by the end of this year should reach a 28-year-low of 4% according to its overall pace over the past eight months.

The index, which was in line with analysts' expectations, was largely affected by the shekel's relatively sudden and sharp depreciation. The weaker shekel resulted in higher housing prices – which are unofficially dollar denominated – and increased import costs, since devaluations generally compel merchants to pay more local currency for the goods they purchase abroad. Ultimately, importers try to charge the difference to their local clients.

The housing component in the CPI rose 1%, while seasonal shortages in various vegetables resulted in some sharp price increases in the food sector, including an average 14.6% rise in fresh vegetable prices.

On the other hand, in a clear indication of the economic slowdown, prices of clothing and footwear declined 5.5%.

The Manufacturers' Association, which habitually calls for a weaker shekel and lower interest rates, said in response to the relatively high CPI that it should not be seen as a reversal of the deflationary trend of recent months.

"The '98 inflation rate is lower than the government's stated targets and the Bank of Israel should therefore not refrain from lowering its lending rates," the association said in a communique.

Germany backs call by Clinton for emergency finance forum

By WILLIAM BOSTON

BONN (Reuters) – Germany yesterday supported a proposal by US President Bill Clinton for a meeting in the next few weeks of the Group of Seven leading industrial nations on global finance reform, but said Russia should also attend.

"Everyone involved should sit around the same table. That includes Russia," Chancellor Helmut Kohl told reporters while on the campaign trail in Wolfsburg.

Clinton proposed in a speech in New York on Monday that G7 finance ministers and central bank chiefs meet within a month to seek ways to resolve the regional financial crises that are shaking the world economy.

Germany, Russia's largest creditor and foreign investor, has urged new Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov to resume economic reforms. The Bonn government has also said Moscow cannot expect Western aid if it reverts to a Soviet-style command economy.

"Germany will offer its help. But that can only be help for self-help," said Kohl.

Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt, speaking at a trade fair, said Bonn would be prepared to guarantee new credits to Russia if Moscow meets its obligations on existing debts.

His remarks came after it emerged last week that Russia had missed most of an 800 million mark interest payment due in August on debt inherited from the former Soviet Union.

Loans made to Russia since 1992 and backed by Hermes export credit guarantees are still being serviced, officials have said.

Russia's debt to Germany, both old and new, totals more than 75 billion marks.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel said the world's industrial nations should act to strengthen global economic growth. He reminded Japan of its "special responsibility" for Asia.

"Beyond this we must engage in a fundamental discussion about reforming the international financial system," he said.

Clinton correctly stated the work on an international architecture should be accelerated to ensure global growth and the stability and functioning of the international monetary system."

Officials from the G7 economic powers met on Monday in London and offered Russia's new government a helping hand, provided it sticks to a path of market reforms.



Governing thoughts

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel (left) listens to his German counterpart, Bundesbank Governor Hans Tietmeyer, at a press conference in Frankfurt yesterday, after a seminar on the Israeli economy. Tietmeyer rejected calls for a concerted interest-rate cut across the developed economies as a means of helping to avert a global depression. (AP)

Telecom competition 'more crucial' than Bezeq sell-off

By JUDY SIEGEL and Jerusalem Post Staff

Expanding competition in the telecom markets is more urgent than accelerating the sell-off of additional Bezeq stakes, according to a report released yesterday by a team headed by Communication Ministry Director-General Danny Rosenne.

After having already lost its monopoly in the cellular and overseas markets, Bezeq will next year also lose its monopoly in the supply of domestic phones, broad-band multimedia and data-transmission services, as local and foreign investors apply for ministry licenses to provide new underground cables, wireless technology and satellites.

In addition, the overseas dialling market may be opened to additional suppliers, beyond the existing three, after the year 2002, the report said.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman yesterday welcomed the detailed, 33-page report on implementation of the no-more-monopoly principle, approved by the government in January 1997.

"I regard the recommendations as a very practical step," said Livnat. "They will constitute a significant structural change, from a monopolistic market to one of much competition among providers, in which market forces gradually replace the supervisory authority [of the Communications Ministry].

"There will be higher quality and more varied services and cheaper rates, and the entire economy will benefit from a more prosperous telecommunications market, more jobs, investments and challenges," said Livnat.

The new licenses will be granted for 12 years at a time.

Neeman said the report, which must be approved by the Ministerial Economics Commit-tee, "is another phase of the government's implementation of opening bureaucratic barriers and exposing the market to competition. This will benefit local industry and produce new sources of employment."

The competing suppliers will have to set up independent infrastructure, but calls from subscribers in one company to another must be able to get through. In addition, number portability will ensure that if a subscriber wants to transfer to another supplier, he will not have to change his phone number.

The committee said that as long as Bezeq controls over 50% of income from domestic calls, ministry supervision on the company – including its rates – will remain intensive to ensure fair competition.

There will have to be continuous separation between the mother company and Bezeq's subsidiaries.

Bezeq's privatization will continue, wrote the committee, which recommended consideration of strategic partnerships for itself and its main subsidiaries, Bezeq International and Bezeqkol Communications.

A separate committee has been set up to conduct a study of the supply of Internet services in the country.

Tadiran Telecom signs $20m. deal with Polish firm

By NINA GILBERT

Tadiran Telecommunications announced yesterday that it has signed an agreement with Netia, a Polish telecommunications operator, for the supply of services based on its wireless local loop solutions. The deal is expected to amount to $20 million, the company said.

Under the deal, InnoWave, Tadiran's wireless systems subsidiary, is to supply access solutions based on its MultiGain Wireless (MGW) system, including telephony, high-speed data and ISDN.

The first orders for the equipment already have been received and the remainder is to be installed by the end of next year.

Netia is the largest independent provider of fixed line telephone services in Poland.

It is owned by Telia AB, a Swedish state-owned national telecommunications company, and Netia Holdings, whose principal investors are Dankner Investments of Israel and Shamrock Holdings and Goldman Sachs Capital Partners of the US.

Tadiran Telecommunications is to merge with ECI Telecom, forming the country's largest telecommunications company, under a stock swap agreement reached recently. The companies, both based in Petah Tikva, are expected to have combined annual revenues of $1.1b.

The wireless local loop utilizes radio links instead of copper lines to provide connection between subscribers and service providers.

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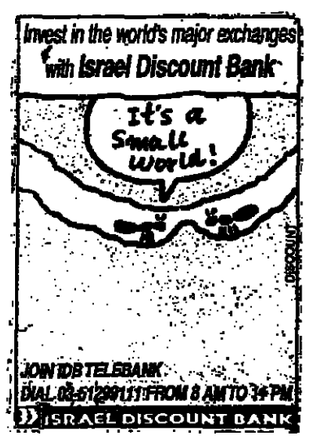
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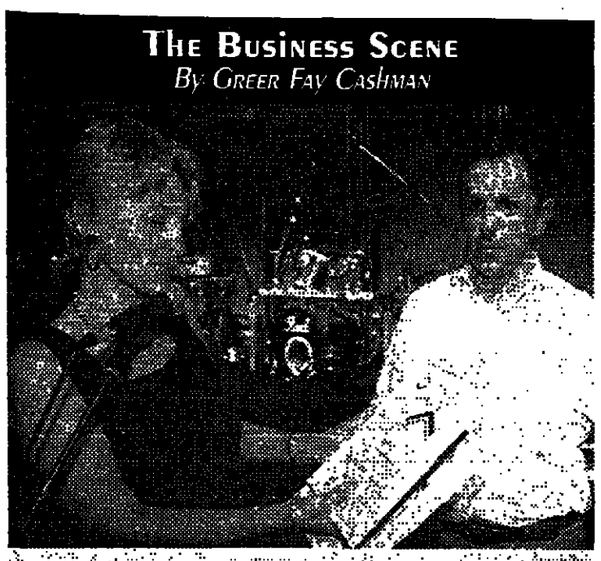
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Golden Lines, the international communications company, has received the IZO 9002 stamp of approval, which arrived in time for the company's first anniversary. Golden Lines chairman Ram Belinkov (right) received the diploma of approval from Ziva Patir (left), head of the Israel Standards Institute. It just so happens that Patir is the wife of Avi Patir, chairman of Golden Lines rival Barak.

Gently chiding Israeli business representatives who complain about the 25-hour flight between Israel and Australia, which necessitates a long stay to justify the travel time, Stan Wallis, president of the Business Council of Australia and chairman of Coles Myer and Amcor, said "I've gone to Chicago for lunch for Australia, and this was a pretty fruitful visit." Wallis is currently in Israel as the head of a 34-member Australian trade mission which includes Baron Katranski, the executive director of the Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce. Prior to returning to Australia, Katranski served for several years as executive director of the Israel-Australia Chamber of Commerce.

The key for Israel to boost its economy is to build synergies with world-class companies, said Michael Pralle, president of GE Capital's Equity Group, at the opening session of the Third Annual Conference of Israel Venture Capital. A first time visitor to Israel, Pralle said he was very impressed with the investment opportunities here, which are fueled by the nurturing environment for high-tech companies and the large number of start-ups and funds raised for them.

Elscint, a subsidiary of Elbit Medical Imaging Ltd., has announced the appointment of Emanuel Gill as Elscint's chief executive officer. The new appointment is in addition to Gill's role as chairman of the company's board of directors. Jonathan Adereth, who was Elscint's president and CEO, has concluded his duties in these capacities, but will remain a member of the company's board of directors.

Dr. David Schwartz, an assistant professor in Bar-Ilan University's Graduate School of Business Administration, has been named a director of Osem Foods Ltd. and a director on behalf of the public for C.I. Systems Ltd. Both companies are traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. A native of Toronto, Canada, Schwartz teaches courses in information systems, Internet and electronic commerce, database systems and artificial intelligence. He also heads the Information Systems Program in Bar-Ilan's Graduate School of Business Administration.

Lady Globes has selected Ruth Ben-Tzur, the general manager of Air Canada, as Career Woman of the Year. Each year the magazine gives special recognition to 10 outstanding career women, one is selected as the Career Woman of the Year. In her citation, Ben-Tzur is attributed with initiative, independence, decisiveness and making a worthwhile contribution to her company. Since taking up her appointment 14 months ago, Ben-Tzur has upgraded Air Canada's services in Israel and has broadened its customer base.

Cushioning the blow

Cash holdings may provide protection against the TASE's anticipated correction, and a reserve for the increasing numbers of bargains that will appear as a result

By NEIL COHEN

PERSONAL FINANCE



We have handily outperformed the market over the last two weeks, which I suppose is some small consolation for the losses we have endured.

The TASE is back where it was a year ago, and given the low inflation over the past year most investors would have done better just keeping their money in cash. We started the defensive portfolio almost exactly 12 months ago, and for quite some time the modest returns on cash and bonds paled in comparison to the soaring stocks. Soaring, unfortunately, turned to plummeting, and while I would hardly claim prescience, my reluctance to commit new capital to a fast-rising market proved wise. In fact, in the 12 months since we started the defensive portfolio the General Share Index is down about 2.2 percent versus an 11.8% gain for the defensive portfolio and losses of 7%-8% for the conservative and aggressive portfolios. The others have been insulated by their substantial cash holdings, which have been financed by the profits we accumulated during the past year.

Orbotech, which we bought in the teens and sold progressively on its way up to $60, is now back at $30. Is it a buy? Probably not, as capital equipment stocks still have further to fall.

As I have written before, the TASE is not particularly expensive. Stocks trade on very reasonable earnings multiples and relatively low price-to-book ratios. The problem, though, is New York, and in fact, the rest of the world.

Most major markets, and New York in particular, have over the last 10 years experienced one of the most spectacular periods of financial wealth-creation in history. And make no mistake, while the markets have fallen sharply, they have given back but a small fraction of the gains they have made over the last decade.

In contrast to Tel Aviv, New York is far from cheap. Granted, US companies are better and more transparently run, and face less challenges than the average Israeli company, so they probably deserve to be priced at some kind of premium.

US financials have taken a real beating, and probably are cheap now since they are perceived to be most exposed to an emerging-market meltdown. However, US technology stocks and blue chips, the drivers of the bull market, still trade at very fancy valuations of 30, 40, even 50 times earnings, multiples which leave lots of room for disappointment and downward adjustment. And when New York adjusts, or rather continues to, we will adjust too, even if we were priced a good deal more reasonably to start with.

This isn't to say that there aren't overadjustments – bargains – in New York already, or cheap stocks in the TASE. But while I am willing to do some nibbling here and there, I like our cash piles, and am very much inclined to keep them. They will provide protection against the further falls I anticipate and a reserve for the increasing numbers of bargains that will appear as a result.

ELBIT/ELSCINT have finally figured out that the medical equipment market is just too tough for a small-to-medium-sized player in a world of giants. Certainly companies with equipment that offers a dramatic clinical advantage over what was previously available can carve niches for themselves, but this is no longer the case in nuclear medicine. So I applaud Elbit for throwing in the towel, I just ask what took them so long.

The key question is what will they do now. Both companies have effectively become cash shells with cash considerably in excess of their market value, even after Elbit had Sunday's TASE trading to react to news of the deals announced after the US market closed on Friday. Both companies have sold the bulk of their businesses to subsidiaries of GE of the US and General Electric Company of the UK (the two companies, while bearing the same name, are unrelated).

The logical – and shareholder-friendly – action to take would be to pay out a huge cash dividend to shareholders, or even better to just liquidate the two companies, which at the current share prices would be a real bonanza for all (obviously one would want management to find the most tax-efficient way of returning cash to shareholders).

Even after the sharp rise in the share price following the announcement of the deals, I think the stock is cheap, unless management fritters away the sale proceeds on ill-advised new business directions. Therefore we are buying NIS 5,000 worth in the conservative portfolio.

I attended the Hambrecht & Quist investment conference last week, and while my main focus was on the private companies my firm invests in, I also took the opportunity to attend a couple of the presentations by the publicly traded companies. Two which particularly interested and impressed me were Bezeq and ESC Medical.

Bezeq seems to have moved from being a lazy, inefficient, bloated, tariff-protected monopoly to a company attuned to and facing all the rigors of the modern, competitive, commercial world.

That it has managed to weather the initial onslaught by the new international carriers and still turn a profit is clearly to its credit and suggests the company is better positioned for competition than many analysts had predicted.

ESC's share price has taken a real hammering (from a high of $45 to the low 20s), despite the fact that the company is continuing to increase its revenues, earnings and earnings-per-share at a rapid rate by making seemingly sensible and successful acquisitions and expanding its product portfolio and distribution capability. At the current rate the company is on target for close to $60 million in profit for 1998, which puts this promising, growth company at 10 times 1998 earnings. Even if the company stumbles, which the market seems to be assuming it will, the stock looks very cheap. We are buying NIS 10,000 worth for the aggressive portfolio.

The writer works in the investment industry and may hold positions in securities mentioned in the column. This column should not be taken as advice to buy, sell or continue to hold any securities and anyone acting on the advice of this column does so at his or her own risk.

NEIL'S PORTFOLIO

General Share Index as of 9/8/98: 274.9 — 9/9/98: 274.1 — All money values in NIS unless otherwise noted

		No. of shares	Cost/share	Total cost	Current price	Current value
Conservative	Citrus Properties convertible	10,416.60	0.96	10,025	1.15	11,979.09
	Teva	11.34	1,035.60	12,519	1,392.00	15,789.46
	Bank Tefahot	6.22	1,303.34	8,101	1,920.00	11,933.57
	Clal Israel	143.68	69.60	10,025	89.20	12,816.17
	Carmel Container	341.00	59.00	10,020	$6.50	8,537.96
	Dan Hotels	425.65	8.81	3,769	11.38	4,843.87
	Jafora Tabori	556.80	8.98	5,025	7.65	4,259.52
	Ytong	640.00	7.79	5,010	9.40	6,016.00
	IDB	1,432.66	3.49	5,025	3.95	5,659.00
	Koor	28.00	357.05	10,017	344.00	9,632.00
	Bezeq	625.00	12.00	7,520	11.28	7,050.00
	Elbit Imaging	125.31	39.90	5,020	39.90	5,000.00
	1 month cash deposit at 11%					46,612.01
	Total portfolio value			100,000	151,819.70	150,128.60
Aggressive	Lazsik Commercial ordinary	4,314.51	1.24	5,775	1.55	6,665.92
	Clal Electronics	16.31	283.28	4,641	504.00	8,221.75
	Tower Semiconductor	292.00	$5.75	6,584	$6.38	7,170.50
	Israel Chemicals	3,488.37	2.58	9,023	3.93	13,709.29
	Delek Motors	1,219.88	3.32	4,075	6.60	8,051.21
	Biotech General	224.00	$11.00	8,482	$4.97	4,287.28
	Discount Investments	120.00	81.62	9,819	101.70	12,204.00
	Israel Corporation	47.33	211.30	10,025	330.00	15,617.58
	Orda Print	180.33	41.59	7,525	34.90	6,293.51
	Ayalon Insurance	729.93	6.85	5,020	5.39	3,934.32
	A. Levy warrant	4,854.37	1.03	5,020	0.73	3,543.69
	MIZPE	1,002.00	7.47	7,505	7.40	7,414.80
	ESC Medical	120.00	-$21.44	9,950	$21.44	9,930.00
	1 month cash deposit at 11%					49,751.00
	Total portfolio value			100,000	157,129.00	156,795.40
Defensive	AIRon4 convertible	5,847.95	.86	5,020	.83	4,824.56
	ZurShamir3 convertible	5,208.33	.96	5,020	.98	5,098.95
	Granit 1 convertible	3,501.40	1.43	5,020	1.53	5,364.15
	1 Month deposit at 12%					96,533.70
	Total portfolio value			100,000		111,821.40

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MUTUAL FUNDS

Fund's name	unit cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	yield 1998 (%)	NIS assets (millions)
FLEXIBLE					
Abir	224.80	224.13	- 0.84	+1.76	18.4
Adar Flexible	109.18	106.89	- 0.28	+6.33	27.5
Afikim Flexible	207.79	205.12	+ 2.82	-0.52	14.1
Ahrayut Flexible	473.16	464.69	- 0.84	-7.40	2.4
Alomot Flexible	107.69	105.87	- 0.19	—	11.0
Analyst Deversified	781.25	762.98	- 1.49	+5.45	67.2
Apex Flexible	180.30	179.74	+ 0.87	+ 15.82	40.9
Arimedes	98.26	96.39	- 0.62	+2.75	1.3
Avnex	1887.95	1882.32	- 0.82	-0.99	5.2
Bloch Rotstein Flexible	215.34	211.14	- 2.85	+2.16	30.3
Clali Flexible	1139.20	1135.25	- 1.04	-0.81	4.6
Dilda Mamon	258.10	257.26	- 1.24	-2.42	23.7
Dilda Meirav	178.68	178.16	- 0.48	-0.95	10.4
Dilda Mokad	3427.66	3402.62	- 1.04	+1.92	75.1
Dovrat Shrem Flexible	162.07	158.68	- 1.05	- 10.85	29.0
Emda Idit	3859.67	3819.69	- 2.05	-3.34	29.2
Epsilon Flexible	161.38	160.85	- 1.34	+3.50	12.1
Evergreen Flexible	116.39	115.45	- 2.09	-5.07	7.9
Excellence Flexible	3231.05	3185.41	+ 0.36	+ 10.14	6.2
Igud Bonds	107.03	106.58	- 0.45	+2.24	18.0
Igud Flexible	168.83	167.69	- 0.52	+4.34	296.0
Igud Shildit	143.21	143.21	+ 0.86	+9.76	2.8
Ilanot 30 Plus	144.39	141.91	- 0.85	-7.27	24.2
Ilanot 90	254.84	250.35	- 0.94	-0.20	4.2
Ilanot Shtilim Aldi	2543.30	2543.30	—	—	72.1
Ilanot Tidhar	3314.06	3297.48	- 0.55	+2.03	6.1
Kivun Flexible	123.37	122.29	- 0.02	+1.18	69.3
Lahak Duhfat	755.03	742.24	- 0.98	+1.27	5.5
Lamashkia	—	—	—	—	5.4
Lapid	1555.57	1555.57	- 1.27	-3.00	8.1
Maofim Bonds	105.66	104.51	+ 0.02	—	11.4
Maofim Flexible	150.66	147.96	- 2.38	+7.65	12.6
Maritime Flexible Fund	98.87	97.02	- 2.39	+7.18	3.1
Meitav Flexible	165.84	164.12	- 0.73	+5.21	8.6
Models Flexible	108.00	105.88	+ 0.24	-4.55	4.9
Models Teuza	98.40	97.18	+ 0.99	+2.61	16.5
Moriz Money Market	142.53	142.53	+ 0.86	+8.09	9.9
Nessa Flexible	2519.97	2508.34	- 0.84	-2.39	0.3
Netz	91.46	90.51	- 2.05	- 26.00	47.5
Noga	939.05	927.12	+ 0.39	+8.72	19.8
Omer Pekan	191.84	188.39	- 0.16	-6.86	4.6
Otzar Flexible	104.29	102.50	- 1.42	+3.18	2.3
Pia Hayovel	226.92	225.84	- 0.90	+ 12.78	54.3
Pia Kela	967.01	962.20	+ 0.60	+7.01	302.7
Psagot Gamish	571.34	561.21	- 2.35	-0.81	139.8
Psagot Megama	337.05	334.37	- 3.39	+0.20	77.8
Quantum	100.57	99.58	+ 0.22	-1.72	0.2
Ramco Flexible	179.05	176.61	+ 1.81	+4.88	8.0
Saar Flexible	229.02	226.02	+ 0.32	+4.09	3.9
Saar Pekan	205.82	205.21	+ 0.13	+6.99	198.9
Sigma Flexible	95.33	94.33	- 1.65	-5.52	8.2
Sivan	290.42	286.74	+ 1.43	+ 10.00	71.4
Telescope	116.98	116.58	+ 0.07	-7.44	1.5
Yaad Flexible	102.32	101.34	- 1.04	+1.57	5.1
Yesodot	3236.77	3169.65	- 2.18	+4.84	34.0
Zeller Flexible	81.83	81.06	- 1.29	- 12.81	3.8
Zion Flexible	14297.85	14236.35	- 3.28	+0.94	10.0
SHARES					
Adif Pekan	119.95	117.83	- 3.04	+2.53	37.2
Afikim Shares	287.66	283.94	+ 3.59	+2.35	14.5
Ahrayut Oil & Shares	330.17	327.52	+ 2.06	- 17.26	1.4
Ahrayut Real Estate	215.75	211.37	- 0.41	-4.22	7.2
Ahrayut Shares	310.87	305.38	- 0.59	-7.16	2.7
Alomot Growth	93.52	91.92	- 1.02	—	1.2
Analyst Aggressive	160.27	156.56	- 1.86	+5.00	55.4
Analyst Equity	1266.86	1237.22	- 0.46	+6.48	143.9
Analyst Industries	394.58	385.49	- 0.18	+6.63	57.5
Apex Shares	114.51	114.02	+ 1.29	+ 14.40	16.4
Atlas Pekan	—	—	—	—	29.2
Baron	210.98	210.30	- 1.42	-2.44	12.1
Bloch Rotstein Shares	111.03	108.89	- 2.66	+9.05	14.3
Capital Shares	92.35	91.26	- 0.71	+0.04	3.4
Chemical Pekan	120.42	118.30	- 3.33	+0.87	5.2
Clali Maof	241.01	240.30	+ 0.41	-2.09	16.4
Clali Shares & Conv.	153.13	152.60	+ 1.13	+2.90	2.3
Dilda Maagal	98.12	97.34	- 2.03	-5.81	12.1
Dilda Madad Maof	206.48	205.37	- 0.52	-1.13	67.9
Dilda Maretz	518.50	514.51	- 1.41	-1.56	67.3
Dilda Miftan	105.51	105.70	- 7.30	- 13.22	32.9
Dilda Migzar Finance	125.96	125.00	- 0.97	+0.15	31.0
Dilda Mifud 30	68.29	67.76	- 0.37	-6.68	33.0
Dilda Mivneh	351.51	348.75	- 2.52	-2.26	25.5
Dilda Mondial	—	—	—	—	13.3
Dilda Mor	1523.35	1511.63	- 1.14	-2.98	67.0
Dovrat Shrem 100	103.77	101.65	- 0.80	-7.15	18.6
Dovrat Shrem Yesod	116.44	114.06	- 3.09	-8.49	12.7
Emda Export	83.48	82.62	- 1.38	-2.32	8.9
Emda High Tech	—	—	—	—	7.7
Emda Maof	214.86	213.25	+ 0.71	-1.14	32.3
Emda Paz	180.28	178.46	- 2.30	-1.69	11.7
Emda Shahevet	161.46	160.26	- 1.21	-0.07	13.3
Emda T-A 100	1964.76	1943.91	- 0.99	-3.26	48.2
Emda Yater	1543.82	1527.53	- 4.35	-7.54	21.5
Epsilon 38	107.77	107.37	- 1.53	+6.28	33.5
Epsilon Shares	186.16	187.50	- 1.31	+2.15	14.8
Epsilon Technologies	—	—	—	—	11.3
Erez Pekan	354.02	347.66	- 0.21	+5.43	155.4
Esh	562.46	551.85	- 0.27	-8.24	2.1
Evergreen High Tech	—	—	—	—	8.9
Evergreen Shares	157.05	155.75	- 0.99	-2.80	17.0
Excellence Agresive	261.42	258.26	- 3.37	+8.37	9.2
Excellence Shares	635.80	631.99	- 1.25	+ 10.21	8.8
Eyal Shares	133.74	133.74	- 1.81	-0.68	6.8
Gal	123.23	121.65	+ 1.52	+6.24	14.2
Hon Pekan	107.96	106.07	- 2.11	-4.67	54.0
Igud Maof	93.59	93.59	+ 0.70	-1.50	6.2
Igud Shares	149.10	148.08	+ 0.54	+1.00	8.9
Igud Yater	103.82	103.29	- 1.85	-4.70	10.0
Ilanot Caramim	162.45	161.59	- 4.12	-2.50	85.8
Ilanot Communication	107.66	107.08	- 2.71	-0.88	59.9
Ilanot Dekel	3090.45	3074.43	- 0.53	-1.86	94.7
Ilanot Finance	93.63	93.14	- 1.68	-1.85	13.3
Ilanot Globe	—	—	—	—	11.4
Ilanot Maof	203.38	202.44	+ 0.58	-0.99	57.5
Ilanot Nadlan	1482.90	1471.28	- 1.00	—	30.4
Ilanot Nimrezet	75.25	75.69	- 3.58	- 11.62	5.3
Ilanot Shares	4892.28	4806.50	- 1.57	-4.37	8.8
Ilanot Shchakim	53.89	52.93	- 2.90	-8.54	14.8
Ilanot Shesek	932.15	915.81	- 0.42	+0.40	112.7
Ilanot T-A 100	2749.95	2735.56	- 0.53	-1.52	74.4
Israel America	—	—	—	—	0.9
Kohav Pekan	172.86	172.30	- 1.50	+3.76	102.9
Koor Money Market	136.40	136.40	+ 0.49	+8.80	382.2
Koor Shares	91.11	90.00	- 2.38	-3.07	8.6
Lahak Agresivit Plus	78.75	77.39	+ 0.12	- 11.57	17.3
Lahak Ankor	822.85	820.58	- 0.09	-3.28	34.0
Lahak Dividends	332.61	331.71	- 0.43	+8.41	70.2
Lahak Menayot 30	95.07	95.07	+ 2.11	—	37.6
Lahak Menayot Yeter	107.72	106.67	- 6.39	-5.09	38.5
Lahak Nadlan	132.92	130.58	- 0.87	+1.32	30.4
Lahak TA-Wall Street	—	—	—	—	15.5
Lahak Tor 100	438.58	430.85	+ 0.49	+0.39	75.8
Lahak Yetsu	75.10	74.90	+ 0.54	+0.66	32.9
Lahak Zamir	802.56	800.31	- 1.39	-1.73	57.2
Maale Maof Pekan	184.36	181.14	- 0.04	-3.32	63.5
Magic	273.54	268.69	- 1.32	+2.99	8.4
Meitav High Tech	—	—	—	—	1.6
Meitav Options	44.93	44.21	- 2.28	+6.27	10.7
Meitav Shares	207.68	205.57	- 0.82	+0.59	5.4
Meitav Teuza	112.66	111.47	- 2.36	+1.68	5.3
Mercazit Caram Maniv	62.56	62.38	- 4.65	-5.98	1.9
Mercazit Maof	190.74	190.27	+ 0.48	-3.07	2.1
Mercazit TA 100	352.84	352.08	- 0.19	-3.31	2.6
Meringall Dynamic	106.57	105.18	+ 1.59	+8.54	15.4
Nechsi Continental	56.57	55.56	- 2.22	-3.07	12.6
Nessa Shares	442.26	439.96	- 0.67	-1.80	8.4
NIS T-A 100	1060.40	1048.72	+ 1.46	+2.63	20.5
Omega	120.42	118.30	+ 2.12	-3.14	1.7
Otzar Foreign Int. Par.	150.64	150.64	- 0.66	+6.25	2.4
Otzar Shares	117.10	115.06	- 1.47	+3.26	6.3
Otzar Yeter	85.17	83.70	- 2.80	-4.47	4.4
Pekan T-A 100	161.15	160.70	+ 0.16	-0.27	62.1
Pia 2000	92.06	90.42	- 1.70	-1.06	22.1
Pia Bidolach T-A 100	1038.25	1020.88	+ 2.69	+2.34	79.2
Pia Manof	134.27	131.86	- 3.19	+1.90	42.6
Pia Maot	199.60	196.08	+ 1.04	+0.15	92.7
Pia Michtol	852.24	837.24	+ 0.35	+7.82	127.0
Pia Odem	1314.74	1291.46	+ 0.42	+9.69	165.5
Pia Olamit	—	—	—	—	30.1
Pia Yahalom	1136.56	1116.50	- 0.12	+7.59	68.9
Pia Zimuk	66.43	65.28	- 2.54	+4.47	38.3
Pritza	—	—	—	—	0.5
Psagot 20	85.32	83.81	- 1.65	—	140.8
Psagot Al	79.67	78.24	- 5.32	-8.07	27.3
Psagot Focus	108.29	106.37	- 2.80	-1.72	67.8
Psagot High Tech	—	—	—	—	40.7
Psagot Mabat Lashaqim	133.65	131.26	- 3.92	+2.92	39.3
Psagot Mensayot	842.75	838.07	- 3.31	+0.37	157.2
Psagot T-A 100	381.69	379.57	- 1.06	+3.78	215.8
Psagot Yeter	187.73	184.40	- 4.41	-0.22	49.4
Raam 90	122.73	120.18	- 5.06	- 18.13	5.3
Simodan Shares & Conv.	74.76	73.60	- 1.59	-9.34	0.5
Singer Barnea Financial	117.47	115.43	- 0.35	-2.89	0.7
Singer Barnea Shmura	142.02	141.60	- 1.75	-0.27	2.1
Tamir Fishman Tamcha	—	—	—	—	10.8
Tsuot Sufa	153.10	152.20	+ 0.13	+5.97	22.5
Yaar	37.30	36.85	- 2.74	- 26.06	0.2
Zik	335.44	334.51	- 2.52	-4.99	3.2
Zion Shares	142.95	142.06	- 0.22	-4.54	3.0
Zion Yeter	85.84	85.51	- 3.74	-9.56	4.0
STATE BONDS					
Ahrayut State Bonds	464.28	458.48	+ 0.02	+5.03	4.5
Almog Pekan	290.41	285.28	- 0.01	+1.95	137.4
Analyst Government Bonds	415.19	409.82	+ 0.03	+5.53	31.2
Clall Dotan	1287.65	1283.87	+ 0.51	+4.06	5.0
Clali State Bonds	492.45	491.11	+ 0.02	+2.76	8.8
Dilda Marom	6580.78	6533.07	+ 0.42	+6.60	34.1
Dilda Mivtah	1789.08	1774.98	- 0.48	+6.47	35.7
Ducas	286.25	281.62	+ 0.34	+6.78	14.0
Emda Goverment Bond	1138.82	1129.87	- 0.19	+3.32	55.5
Emda Leshem	1495.16	1480.47	+ 0.09	+2.16	28.8
Emda Sella	1455.79	1445.17	+ 0.40	+6.12	50.4
Epsilon Gov't Bonds	215.93	215.25	+ 0.31	+8.55	18.2
Geva	430.91	425.68	+ 0.20	+5.60	88.7
Hilla Pekan	572.40	572.40	+ 0.15	+7.00	289.2
Ilanot Egoz	1229.18	1219.93	+ 0.54	+7.98	52.0
Ilanot Tapuah	705.25	701.50	- 0.02	+2.67	20.3
Ilanot Tapuz	1128.59	1120.34	+ 0.08	+4.58	106.1
Lahak Eltoni	568.92	560.17	- 0.21	+1.82	63.8
Lahak Shahaf	152.49	149.57	+ 0.01	+6.47	53.9
Lahak Snunit	720.85	719.82	+ 0.07	+7.87	105.5
Maritime Government Bond	163.80	161.56	- 0.29	+7.68	14.3
Meitav Gov't Bonds	128.04	127.05	+ 0.45	+8.19	10.2
Meloritt Pekan	125.44	123.23	+ 0.04	+4.94	18.6
Mercazit Gov't Bonds	163.71	162.54	+ 0.37	+5.99	6.4
Nessa Gov't Bonds	1426.80	1420.61	- 0.06	+7.26	37.7
Otzar Gov't Bonds	161.09	158.36	+ 0.20	+5.76	14.5
Pia Conv' Bonds 60	257.18	255.94	- 1.89	—	87.3
Pia Tarshish	143.25	140.72	+ 0.01	+6.03	248.2
Pia Zeevit	4965.29	4957.32	+ 0.20	+5.25	157.2
Psagot Agach	518.28	507.39	+ 0.06	+8.51	55.5
Psagot Masla	461.42	457.77	+ 0.39	+7.69	61.5
Psagot Madad	584.33	583.83	- 0.20	+5.76	98.1
Shavit Pekan	757.08	743.86	- 0.73	+7.38	154.3
Sigma Gov't Bonds	139.29	137.51	+ 0.28	+2.50	1.8
Yaara Pekan	606.15	595.51	- 0.15	+4.91	73.3
Yevul Pekan	781.59	779.42	- 0.01	+5.70	185.0
Ziv	651.71	643.48	+ 0.16	+5.91	40.8
Zohar	539.11	532.39	+ 0.39	+5.97	39.8
COMPANY BONDS					
Afikim Bonds	332.28	328.11	+ 1.48	-0.90	41.3
Ahrayut Bonds	201.25	197.77	- 0.52	+1.73	5.1
Amirim	135.67	134.65	+ 0.23	+3.86	24.5
Analyst Corporate Bonds	298.24	292.95	- 0.38	+4.21	106.0
Analyst Money Market	164.12	163.66	+ 0.74	+7.93	15.3
Apex Tsua	148.74	148.19	+ 0.32	+ 11.44	86.7
Bloch Rotstein Bonds	171.88	169.49	+ 0.36	+8.49	16.8
Bond	184.87	183.77	- 0.37	+1.36	9.8
Capital Bonds	160.00	158.89	+ 0.11	+7.50	11.3
Clali Company Debentures	213.16	213.16	- 0.59	+4.16	3.0
Clali Gen' Bond Rating	107.13	106.82	+ 0.11	—	15.0
Clali Zmira	184.29	184.29	+ 0.73	+8.21	57.5
Dilda Maayan	994.98	987.72	+ 0.23	+6.50	52.1
Dilda Magen Plus	106.01	106.01	+ 0.38	—	354.1
Dilda Meskorel Plus	151.45	151.45	+ 0.50	+8.85	402.6
Dilda Mokmad	482.85	479.21	+ 0.42	+ 10.76	26.9
Dilda Mirvah	620.92	616.11	- 0.03	+0.65	23.4
Dilda Mivhar	601.72	597.42	- 0.07	+7.17	35.9
Dilda Nigvan	2084.13	2068.94	+ 0.71	+4.23	80.2
Dovrat Shrem Bonds	172.06	169.44	- 0.71	+1.94	55.9
Emda Dynamit Magan	111.20	111.20	+ 0.37	+8.17	52.0
Emda Halamish	162.47	160.89	+ 0.43	+5.94	16.4
Emda Hamara	1136.67	1125.08	- 1.07	-0.24	47.2
Emda Shildt	105.67	105.67	+ 0.55	+8.44	836.5
Epsilon Corp. Bonds	128.34	127.94	- 1.21	+2.03	24.9
Epsilon Money Market	155.96	155.96	+ 0.57	+8.52	251.1
Evergreen Shkoda	159.99	159.14	- 0.63	+4.17	32.1
Excellence Bonds	2259.95	2230.28	+ 0.44	+ 10.11	14.5
Eyal Corporate Bonds	153.24	152.67	- 1.11	+1.53	6.9
Eyal Shotef	144.48	144.48	+ 0.52	+8.97	16.1
Guy	756.27	745.95	+ 0.56	+8.00	117.1
Hetz Pekan	627.95	627.95	+ 0.47	+8.38	—
LBJ Shkalim	155.53	155.53	+ 0.56	+9.86	179.0
Igud Magen Shildt	100.95	100.95	+ 0.12	—	18.1
Ilanot Agas	465.50	463.23	+ 0.14	+5.41	47.6
Ilanot Alon	2055.89	2040.72	+ 0.52	+7.45	41.8
Ilanot Armon	144.21	143.18	+ 0.17	+5.70	23.2
Ilanot Conv'bonds	3276.20	3259.10	- 0.82	+4.73	9.0
Ilanot Eshel	818.83	812.79	+ 0.32	+6.09	92.4
Ilanot Etrog	1112.00	1106.14	- 0.28	+5.04	58.5
Ilanot Muvtahat	109.18	109.18	- 0.02	+4.99	48.4
Ilanot Oren	4215.75	4194.83	+ 0.44	+4.26	132.3
Ilanot Orion	188.34	187.93	+ 0.51	+8.60	27.0
Ilanot Rimon	584.49	584.49	+ 0.50	+8.68	—
Ilanot Shahar	248.37	247.16	- 0.11	+6.46	35.0
Ilanot Shalad	241.80	240.19	+ 0.33	+6.26	39.2
Ilanot Shkpda	173.34	171.86	+ 0.29	+5.77	64.7
Keshet Pekan	458.15	450.06	- 0.69	+2.31	34.4
Koor Amnar Bonds	214.16	213.72	+ 0.21	—	20.4
Koor Dilender	100.70	100.70	—	—	—
Lahak Conv. Bonds	248.04	248.04	- 0.71	+3.66	112.3
Lahak Magen 95%	159.07	159.07	+ 0.15	+4.90	144.8
Lahak

هكذا ص الاصل

TEL AVIV 100 LEADING SHARES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Africa Hotels	455	-0.9
Africa Israel 0.1	19300	2.1
Africa Israel 1	191900	1
Agis	2480	-0.8
Ak Paper Mills	13210	-1.1
Alony	2200	-5.9
Alrom	3020	-1.7
Azorim Prop.	649	0
Bank Leumi 0.1	598	0.2
Baran	2650	0
Bayside 1	45000	-0.9
Bayside 5	215000	0
Bezeq	1151	-2
Blue Square	5170	1
Broshar	2260	-3.1
Clal Electronics	53800	-0.2
Clal Industries	1913	-2.3
Clal Insurance	3630	-1.7
Clal Israel 1	9070	-1.3
Dan Hotels	1138	0
Dankner	2060	4.9
Darban	725	-2.1
Dead Sea Works 0.1	827	-2.7
Delek 0.1	10800	0
Delek Car	647	-0.5
Development Mort	22800	0
Discount Bank	380	-4.2
Discount Inv.	10520	-2.5
Elbit 0.003	1055	0.8
Elbit Imaging	3970	-6
Elbit system	4880	0
Elco	2210	0
Elco Industries	3350	-2.1
Electra	17100	-1.4
Electra App	2670	-2.6
Elite Ind. 1	2370	1.7
Elite Ind. 5	10510	-2.4
Elron 0.003	5930	-3.5
FIBI 5	3080	-1.9
First Int'l 1	422	-3.1
First Int'l 5	2200	-5.5
First Int'l Mort	52100	0
Formula	9140	-0.1
General Bank	9500	0
Gilat Hasamel	732	-2.5
Hadarim Prop.	6620	0.3
Ham-Let	1957	0
Hapoalim 0.1	961	-1.1
Harel Mishmar 1	3900	0
Harel Mishmar 5	15500	0.7
I.D.B. Dev.	9130	-0.9
I.D.B. Holdings	8690	-1.9
IDC	1962	-0.5
Ind Bldgs	556	-1.4
Israel Chemicals	386	-2.8
Israel Corp. 1	32700	-0.9
Isrotel	668	0
Jacobi	771	0.8
JCT	33.8	-3.2
JEC	1710	-2.3
Kitan	364	-1.6
Knafaim	4890	0
Koor	35400	-1.1
Leader	1100	-4.1
Leumi Insurance	205	-2.4
Leumi Mortgage	73600	0
Liraz	3260	0
Makhteshim Agan Ind.	890	-0.9
Maman	525	-8.8
Matab	4000	-2.8
Mehadrin	13300	0
Mei Eden	1549	0
Melisaaron	1040	-3.8
Menorah Ins. 1	2140	0
Mibmor	1504	0
Migdal	64000	0
Mishi Inv.	8320	-4.4
NATSWA REGULAR	1370	-0.1
Nice Systems	12290	0.8
Ocil	7790	2.7
Orbit	906	0
Ormat Industries	458	-2
Osem Industries	1801	-2.1
Petrochemicals	1980	-1
Phoenix Ins. 1	5950	0
Poalim Inv.	11990	1.1
Prop & Bldg	33800	-0.3
Salt Industries	1980	2.5
Solel Bone	4470	1.8
Supersol	1194	0.8
Tadiran	11510	-2.2
Tambour	500	0
Tefahot	183000	0
Tempo	1850	0
Teva	14550	1.3
Urdan	247	0
Wire and Cables	1120	0.4
Ytong Industries	960	0

KARAM SMALL CAPITALIZATION TASE ISSUES

	LAST	CHANGE*
Boulous GD	380	-0.5
Solomon Holdings	380	0
Abgar	1.9	-5
Aburdi	45	-4.5
Ace-Spade	82.6	0
Ackerstein Bond B	169.4	0
Ackerstein Ind.	530	1.5
Ackerstein Zvi 1	1780	0
Ackerstein Zvi 5	6710	-2.3
adakom	36.5	0
Adanim	347254	0
Adler	103	0
Adsha	136	0
Adumim	225	11.9
Africa Hotels Bond B	99.5	0
Africa Hotels Warrant 2	56	-1.8
Africa Israel Hotels Bond A	137.5	0
Afsek Ind	1084	0
Agis Warrant 3	15	0
Agis Warrant 4	400	0
Agish Int'l	310	0
Agn Investments	533	0
Al-Ben	123	0
Al-Ben Bond A	116.5	-0.4
Albe c2	97.5	0
Albe w5	126	0
Alliance	584	-3.1
Alon	319	0
Alony-Hetz	441	0
Alony-Hetz Bond A	258	0
Alrod	204	-0.5
Alrod Warrant 1	5	0
Alrov Bond D	82	-0.1
Alrov Warrant 5	290	0
Alumit	222	0
Alumot	1238	-6
Amilgar	180	0
Ammbr 5	156	0
Ammeal Warrant 1	42	0.2
Amnat	650	0.8
Ampa Investments	125400	0
Analyst EMS	641	-4.5
Angel Trade	30.9	-0.6
Angel Trade Bond A	148.5	0
Angel Trade Bond B	115	-0.4
Angel Trade Bond C	55.5	-0.8
Apcon	887	3.2
Apcon warrant 1	235	0
Applicom	2850	-1.8
Aracell Warrant 2	404	0
Arad	1540	0
Arad Towels	1020	0
Arazim	110	0
Arazim Bond 1	248	0
Argamax	230	0
Arieliah	1080	0
Arpal	349	0
Aryt	109	-8.3
Ashkelon Plywood	511	0
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 1	251	0
Ashkelon Plywood Bond 2	125	0
Ashtad	367	0
Ashtad Bond A	155	0.6
Ashot	250	0
Ashot Bond A	164	0
Ashpara	84	0
Ashtrom Bond 1	171.5	-0.9
Ashtrom Bond 2	155.4	0
Ashtrom Ind.	520	0
Ashtrom Prop.	218	-0.5
Assrom P Bond 1	94.9	0
Assrom p warrant a	30	0
Astrum Bond C	100.5	0
Astrum Warrant 2	45	0
Atdon	78	0
Azmor	1889	0
ATK	190	-1
ATK Bond A	155	0
Atzmon	203	0
Avgar	3370	-0.9
Avirol	378	2.1
Avanx Bond A	162	0
Avebuch Formica	507	0
Aviv	3259	2.7
Avn Bond 1	156	0
Avn Bond 2	94	0
Avner	3.6	0
Avrot Bond 2	69	0
Avrot Warrant 2	539	0
Ayalon	445	0
Azimuth	174.5	0
Azorim Properties Bond 3	473	-3.6
Azorim Warrant 13	101	-0.6
Azorim Warrant 5	579	0
Azorim Warrant A	740	0
Azorim Warrant B	28.8	0
Badesh Bond 1	303	0
Baelli	143.5	10
Balkotine 1	129	0
Balkotine Bond A	1	0
Balkotine Warrant 2	3430	0
Balroo	95	0
Bamad asaf	148.5	0
Bamad asaf Bond A	297	0
Bar	132	0
Bar Bond A	239	0
Barad	747	0
Baranowitz	581	0
Barkan	125	8.7
Barsol	255	0
Bartal	183.5	0
Baumel Moshe	91.9	0
BaySide Bond 2	2000	0
BaySide Warrant D	1480	0.1
Bet Shemesh	351	0
Belmon	175.5	0
Ben Yakar Bond A	87.5	-1.1
Ben Yakar Bond B	3395	0
Ben Yakar Gat	132.2	-2.9
Berman	117.5	-1.6
Bezek Bond 3	0	0
Bezek Bond 4	0	0
Bezek Warrant 3	261	-7.7
Bezek Warrant Bond 3	2220	0
Bilu	1200	0
Bilu Bond A	139	0
Binar	340	-1.4
Biri	228	-0.4
Bolos Bond B	85.5	0
bolos gad warrant 1	44.7	49
Bonas Tichon	500	0
Bonjour	470	0
Boulous Brothers	166	-2.4
Boulous Brothers Bond 1	264	0
Boulous GD Bond A	138	0
Brand	84.5	-1.2
Brill	58.5	0
Brok Side	15.2	-2.6
Brosh	195	0
Building Bank	1794	0
Building Resou.	3580	0
C Holdings	570	0
C Holdings Bond 5	68.8	0
C Holdings Warrant 3	0	0
Caesarea 1	5700	0
Canel	3410	0.3
Capital	844	0
Capsal Bond A	125	-0.5
Capture	334	-1.8
Carpal	710	0
Carmel	550	-1.8
Carmiel	439	0
Castro	570	0
Catalena 1	381	0
CDI	150	0
Cementeel Bond A	72.5	2.1
Cementeel	370	2.4
Centre	120	0
Centre Bond 1	136.5	-0.4
Chem	400	-7
Chayan Computers	139.5	0
Chemapol	323	0.6
Chim-Nir	479	0
Ci Systems	144	0
Cidab	143.5	0
Clal Computers	7850	-1.8
Clal Israel 5	0	0
Clal Retail	54096	0
Cohen Beni	104.4	9
Cohen Dev.	190	0
Cohen MM	138	0
Cold Storage 1	1917	1.4
Cold Storage 5	9100	1.2
Cold Storage and Supply Bond 1	2525	0
Compl	152.6	8.3
Compl Warrant 1	20	0
Compulsa	189	0
Comtech	385	0
Comtrans	729	0
Comtel	949	0
Contractors	16447	0
Coral Beach	589	-0.5
Credit Line	3.4	0
Credit Lines Bond A	33	0
Cyclone 1	2500	0
Cyclone Bond 1	260	3.8
Cyclone Bond 2	160.1	1.6
Dafron	1647	0
Dafron Bond 1	252	0
Dalin	1.4	-7.1
Dan Reni-A-Car	785	0
Dan Reni-A-Car Bond A	160	0
Danber 1	5500	0
Danber 5	17000	0
Danber Bond A	266	0
Danber Resources	7800	0
Danber Resources Bond B	170	0
Danbar Tech.	5350	0
Danber Technologies Bond A	157.5	0.3
Daniel	55.8	-11 1
Daniel Bond A	90.2	0.2
Daniel Personnel	2070	-1
Daniel Warrant 2	435	0
Dankner Bond 1	212	0.5
Dankner Bond 2	144	0
Dankner Bond 3	96.9	0
Dankner Warrant C	570	3.5
Danly	432	-0.5
Darad	117	5.1
DARBAN BOND 2	104	0
Darban Bond A	250	0
DARBAN W2	71	-5.8
Darban Warrant 3	130	0
Darisa	149	-0.3
Darlon	300	0
Dash investment	895	0
Data	516	0
Decision Systems	418	0
Degem Systems	432	-0.5
Delek Drillings	14	0.7
Delek Oil	1575	0
Delta 1	3470	0.6
Delta 3	0	0
Destiny	779	0
Digal	164.5	0
Dirom1	1226	0
Dolev	300	0
Dolev Bond A	139	0
Dolev warrant 1	38	0
Domicar	405	0
Domicar Bond	153.5	0
Dor Berger	378	0
Dor Chim	370	2.7
Dors wt	76	0
Dorsa	56	0
Dorl c1	97.8	0
Dori Engineering	440	0
Dori Engineering Bond A	138	0.4
Dovrat Bond A	141.4	0
Dovrat Shrem	1351	-4.4
Dovrat Shrem Warrant 3	0	0
DSL	874	0
Dubek M	2.7	7.4
Dubek S	2.5	0
Dumiz	298	0
DYG Industries	415	1
E & M Computing	1000	0
Edgar Alban	51	-1
Edgar Industries	196	0
Edgar Inv. Bond C	87	0
Edgar Inv. Warrant 5	22.5	0
Eitar Bond A	98	0
Eini	148	0
Eitam	305	0
Elbarain	2790	1.4
El Bad	1860	5.4
El Carat	544	0
El Canit Bond 1	159.5	0.3
Elad	536	0
Elad Bond A	172.3	-0.1
Elad Bond B	150	0
Elad c3	75.5	0
Elad w5	28	-11.5
Elbit Computers Bond B	126	-1.5
Elbit Computers Warrant 2	0	0
Eldan Tech.	180	1.1
Electronics Line	537	0
Elgar	5380	0
Elishav	498	0
Elitech Ind.	743	-0.3
Elitem	300	0
Ella	354	0
Ella Bond A	144	0
Elran	3930	2.5
Elron Warrant 2	0	0
Emek	135.5	-0.4
Emyte	693	0
Engel Const.	747	0
ESC	1740	0.9
Eshed Robotech	185	5.5
Ess	389	0
Evergreen	3470	0
Evrose Warrant 1	1435	-3.1
Excellence	1647	0
Export Inv.	805	0.5
Extra	97.5	0
Feldman	187	0
Feldman Bond A	155	0
Feldman Ind.	260	4
Feldman Warrant 3	13	0
Fertilisers 1	114.5	-0.4
Feuchtwanger 1	6870	-1
Feuchtwanger 5	46200	3.7
Fidelity	2390	0
Five J Jewelers	326	-0.6
Five J Jewelers Bond 2	134.5	0.7
Formica Source	114	0
Frutarom	13900	-1.1
Gahelet	230	13.5
Galoon	1008	0
Galran	161	-10.1
Gama	618	0
Gamatronic	2070	0
Gambit	103.5	0
Gan ShmoelBond A	381	0
Gan ShmoelWarrant 3	1778	-1
Gan Shmuel	425	0
Ganei Hadar	113.9	0
Gap Development	200	2.5
Gap Holdings	6.2	0
Gap Warrant 2	640	0
Gazit	155	0
Gazit Bond B	129	0
Gazit Bond C	65	0
Gibor Bond 1	88.2	0
Gibor Bond A	62	0
Gibor Sabrina	648	0
Gibor Sport	85	0
Gibor Warrant 2	66.5	-8.9
Gilbca	189	0
Gillat	1720	0
Gilotek	110	-22.7
Ginot Olam Oil	730	-4.1
Glob Rel	615	0
Golan	193.5	0
Gold	405	0
Golden House	248	0
Golden House Bond 1	193.5	-0.5
Golex	155	0
Granit Bond	151	-1
Granit Bond 2	276	0
Green Software	1420	9.2
Greenberg	42.8	-4.9
H. Electronics	720	-11.1
H. Mer	2409	0
Habas	131.5	0.4
Habas Bond 1	26800	0
Hadar 1	82900	0
Hadar 5	863	0
Hadar Ins. 1	3700	0
Hadar Ins. 5	115	0
Hadarim Bond I.	1010	0
Hadarim Warrant1	370	0
Hagal	163	0.7
Hagal Bond B	214	0
Hamalor	6.2	-3.2
Hanel	480	0
Hanel Bond A	650	0
Hasin Esh	201	3.1
Hason	270	0
Hatebol 1	144.4	0
Hatebol Bond A	1137	7.9
Hayal	0	0
Hayal Bond1	145	0
Hayal Bond2	82	0
Hayal Warrant 1	340	2.9
Hed Arzi Music	10000	-13.9
Heron 1	39600	-2
Heron 5	181	0
HL Service Bond 2	150	0
HL Service Bond 3	1517	0
HL Services	122	-10.7
Hod	694	0
Hol	144	2.5
Hofit	6670	-1.5
Home Center	111	0
Hydrotics	437	0
IES Industries	6.3	-683.7
IES Warrant 1	115	0
Ilan Gal	147	0
Ilan Gal Bond A	257	0
ILDC Bond 6	410	0
ILDC Hotels	173.5	0.3
ILDC Hotels Bond 1	118.2	0
ILDC Hotels Warrant 2	423	0
ILDC Insurance	138	0.1
ILDC Insurance Bond A	1200	0
Imco	29.1	-11.7
Ind Bld Warrant 3	16	0
Ind Bldgs R1	61	0
Ind.Dev.Bank C	321	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC	3160	0
Ind.Dev.Bank CC 1	3050	-4.3
Ind Dev.Bank Pref	1610	0
Independence Mort	80200	0
Intercoms	788	0
intergamma 1	3540	0
intergamma 5	12370	0
iscal	1600	0
ispro	4100	0
isracolor	220	7.8
Israel Corp. 5	148900	0
Israel Lighterage Bond 3	143	-1.4
Israel Wire & Cables Bond C	178.5	-0.1
Isralom	869	0
Isralom Bond B	265	0
Isralom Bond C	87.3	0
Isramco	2.5	0
Isras 1	7190	0
Isras 5	28500	0
Isras Bond A	260	0
ISTA LINES	2240	0
Itay	2680	0
Itzy Bond 1	73.9	0
Itay Warrant 1	336	0
Itzy Warrant 2	0	0
Jaffoca Bond A	170	0
Jaysour	133.5	30.9
Jaysour Bond A	106.5	-0.5
JEC Bond B	93.5	0
Jerusalem Mort	192	0
Jerusalem Mortgage Bond 18	182.7	0
Jounesse	30.2	0
JOEL	64	-3
JOEL Bond 1A	225	0
JOEL Bond 2	127.6	0
JOEL Bond A	222	0
JOEL Warrant 3	1.3	0
Kadimoni	136.5	0
Kadouri	396	0
kalmce bond b	90	0.7
kalmce warrant 1	84.5	0
Kafrit	1363	0
Kalkalit Bond A	94.8	-0.9
Kalkalit warrant 2	256	0
Kamour	483	2.6
Kamour Bond G	134.2	0
Kamsept	379	0.1
Kanel Warrant G	1	0
Kanicol	30.7	0
Kanicol Bond A	38.9	0
Kardan 1	500	0
Kardan 5	2380	2.9
Katz	125	0
Katz Bond A	64	0
Kedem Chemicals	3890	0
Kedem Chemicals Bond 2	0	0
Kenster	322	-0.9
Kesher	760	0
Kesher Bond A	154	-0.6
Keter	686	0
Kinz	16.6	0
Kinz Bond A	46.2	7.4
King	264	-7.2
Kinneret	173	-0.6
Kisch Kinur	175	0
Kishrei Teufa	1100	0
Kitzi	220	8.7
Kitzi Bond A	155.7	0
Kitzi Bond A	113.5	0
Klil Ind. 5	7020	0
Koor Bond 5	142.8	-0.8
Kopel	249	0
Kopel Bond 1	247	0
La Nationale Bond A	138	0
La Nationale Pref	120	0
Lachish	2700	5.6
Lamont	800	0
Lapidot Oil Exploration	1	0
Lapidot Oil Explorers	77.5	0
Lasera	354	-0.3
Lavlav	551	0
Lazrick Bldg	475	0
Lazrick Comm Cns	151	-0.3
Lazrick Commercial Centres Bond 1	136	0
Lazrick Ind Bldgs	281	0
Lazrick Industrial Bldgs. Bond A	142	0
Leader Warrant B	0	0
Lego	470	0
Lsumi Ra	0	0
Leventhal	404	0
Levi	548	-0.2
Levi Bond A	141.3	4.5
Levi Bond B	89	0
Levi Warrant 2	61	0
Lewinstein Bond A	96.9	0
Lewinstein Warrant 2	698	0
Lewinstein	1540	0
Liber	325	0
Lidan	1450	-2.1
Lifshir 1	166	0
Litshir 5	950	0
Ligad	678	9.8
Ligad Bond 1	151.5	0
Lighterage 1	600	0
LMS	243	-0.4
Lipman	2550	-1.6
Lipshi	2510	0
Lipski Bond A	170.5	0
Liraz Bond A	143.6	-1
Lodan	116	-3.4
Lodzia 1	1318	0
Lodzia 4	5320	0
Luhot Gafil	30.5	-0.7
Luhot Gafil Bond 1	130	-1.1
Lumir	3450	0
Ma'anv	2760	-0.4
Ma'anv Bond A	134.5	-0.2
Maabarot	1270	0
Macpell	480	-1.9
Macpell Bond A	141	0
Macpell Bond B	123	0
Macpell Bond C	76.6	-0.5
Macpell Warrant 3	34.9	7.7
Mafil	810	-8.2
Magan	119	0
Magam Bond A	188	0
Magam Bond B	131.5	0
Magav	155.5	-1
Magma	40.2	-0.5
Magor 1	2070	0
Magor 5	8300	0
Magor hldgs. Bond B	83	0
Magor hldgs. Warrant 2	552	0
Maki	300	0
Mall	105.9	0
Malibu 1	0	0
Malibu 5	0	0
Malibu Bond B	0	0
Malta	680	0
Man	77	0
Man Bond A	216	0
Mantur	25.4	1.2
Marathon	93	0
Marathon insured	100.7	0
Maroo Laznick Constr. Bond 1	169.4	0
Maroo Laznick Constr. Bond 2	148.7	0
Maritime Bank	1380	2.1
Maritime Bank Bond A	202	0
Maritime Bank Bond B	143	0
Mashav	900	0
Mashbir	820	0
Mashov	362	0
Mashov	152.5	-5.3
Matam	1426	0
Matav Warrant 1	1049	-0.4
Maxima 1	418	4.3
Maxima 5	1549	-5.2
Maxpak	895	-10.8
Med. Hotels	23	-5.7
Mediechnica	640	-2.5
Mediechnica Bond A	136.8	0
Mediechnica Bond B	85	0
Mediechnica Warrant 2	120	0
Mediterranean Hotels Bond A	46.8	0
Megason	57.5	0
Meimad	456	0
Mei Ezra	2030	0
Mei Ezra Bond B	258	0
Melisi	295	0
Melisseron Bond B	92	-0.8
Melisseron Warrant 3	40.2	0
Mendelson	170	0
Menofim	38.4	0
Menorah Ins. 5	8100	0
Mercavt	865	0
Merhav	150	-1.3
Meytarv	187	-1.1
Middle East Tube	316	-1.3
Middle East Tube Bond A	112	0
Middle East Tube Warrant 2	17	0
Milimor Bond A	137.8	0
Milimor Bond B	84	0
Milimor Warrant 2	148	0
Mimcat	90	0
Mini Line	562	0
Minrav	12300	0
Mirage	194	-8.2
Mirage Bond A	135	0
Mirage Warrant 1	9	0
Miromit	60	0
Mishmael	19	0
Mishmael Bond B	58	0
Mishor Bond 2	143.8	0
Mishor Hahof	383	0
Mistarit	188	0
Mivtach Shamir	2080	-1
Mivtach Shamir	1190	0
Mizrahi	857	0
Mizrahi warrant 1	278	0.4
Mizrahi warrant 2	152	-0.3
MM Engineering	112	0
MM Engineering Bond A	76	-1.3
Modgal	645	0
Modi'in	1	0
Moffet	188	-3.4
Moffet Convertible Bond AAA	302	0
Molett	990	0
More Plastic Ind.	348	0
Moshkowitz	139	-6.7
MTI Computers	422	0
Mul-T-Lock	785	0.1
Mula Sanitas	223	0
Nachshon Fund	44.7	-0.4
Naphtha	33	-2.1
Naphtha Oil Exp.	27	0
Natour	720	0
NATSWA BOND A	104.7	0
Navigator	341	0.3
Navigator Property	789	2.5
Nechushtan Bond B	74.8	-0.3
Nechushtan Prop.	193	0
Nechushtan Properties Bond A	135	0
Nechushtan Warrant 1	29.2	-2.4
Negev Ceramics	162.5	0
Nenushtan 1	600	0
Nehushtan 5	2500	0
Neot Aviv	7600	0
Nesua	489	0
Neve Arbel	181	0
Nevirm Hotels	338	-0.6
Neviot	776	-3.1
Nia	206	-5.1
Nikuv	982	-9.6
Nisco	2650	-3
Nissan	259	0
NMC	220	2.3
Noga	1500	0
Noga Insurans	100	0
Nordan	19	0
Nordan Tech.	380	0
Norfolk	650	0
Norfolk Bond A	148	0
Nur	63	0
NVP	991	0
Oceana	269	-3.5
Ocif Bond A	178.5	0.3
Ocif Bond C	90	-0.3
Ocif Warrant 2	720	0
Ocuvu	594	0
Olek	210	0
Ofer Bro	5390	0
Ofis	1090	0
Ogden	61	0
Ohaley	466	0
Oil Fields	12	0
Oil-Dyk	262	0.8
Omni	253	0
Omnitech	182.5	0
Ophir	358	-0.6
Oppenheimer	88	0
Optima	130	0
Orasys	2765	0.5
Orazit	373	0
Orazit Bond A	163	-0.1
Orda	3430	-1.7
Orda Bond 1	181	0
Orav	777	-2.1
Oriel	120	0
Orlite	280	0
Orlite Bond A	94	0
Orlite Warrant 2	28	-14.3
Ormat Industries Bond D	194	0
Ormat Industries Warrant 5	115	0
Ortal	360	0
Ozzar Hashilon	25800	0
Oz	200	0
Oz asida	427	0
Paciar Steel	5200	1.2
Paltough	579	-0.9
PAM	453	-1.3
Pama	698	0
Pames	2110	0
Pan Dor	271	0
Pardes	711	0
Pardes Bond A	52.5	0
Passport	2300	0
Paz Chon	385	0
PCB	1260	3.7
Pdan Investment	56	-1.8
Pereg	122	0
Periclase	749	0
Phoenix Ins. 5	20000	0
Pica Plast	436	0
Pinros	135	-0.8
Pinros Bond A	144.5	0
Pitkit	415	0
Plasson bond a	101.5	0
Plasson warrant 1	350	-5.1
Plasson	3850	0
Plasto Sec	644	0
Plasto Sheck Bond A	66.1	0
Plasto Sheck Warrant 2	103	0
Poalim Inv. Bond B	94.2	-0.3
Poalim Inv. Warrant 3	2360	-0.8
Poalim Investments Bond A	138.5	0
Poalim Warrant 3	0	0
Point of Sale	1760	-1.7
Polak	237	-2.9
Polgat A	351	-1.7
Polgat B 4	1188	-1.8
Polgat Bond B	0	0
Polygon	203	0
Polygon Bond 2	220	0
Poraz	208	-1
Port	72	0
Poseidon	109	0
Prl Haemek	14.5	-9.9
Prl Haemek Bond A	27.5	0
Pritzker	208	0
Pritzker Bond A	142	0
Profit	306	0
Profit Bond A	133	0
Python	468	0
Quality Cap Mkts	550	0
Rebuilder	270	0
Ram Zur	74.2	0
Ramgor 1	270	0
Ramgor 4	685	0
Rapak	2410	0
Rapak Bond A	157	0
Rassco	1480	1
Ratso	1	0
Rav Dar	110	0
Rawad	147	0
RDC	1100	0
RDC Bond A	144.2	0
Red Sea Hotels	730	0
Regency	107.5	0
Regency Bond 1	122	0.2
Regent	430	0
Regent Bond A	141

TASE falls after decline on world markets

Tel Aviv

Stocks dropped yesterday, tracking declines in European equities on concern world markets, particularly US shares, will fall during the nation's five-day break starting tomorrow in the run-up to the New Year holiday.

Tadiran, which has American depositary receipts traded in New York, dropped 2.1 percent to NIS 115.1. The Maof Index of the 25 largest companies fell 1.24% to 298.93.

The stock market will be closed from Friday through Tuesday for Rosh Hashana. That's worrying investors because they won't be able to react to swings in world markets, particularly in the US, where Israeli companies representing 28% of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange's market value are traded. "In a volatile market with a super-long weekend, people are less willing to take a position," said Jan Teutsch, director of trading at UBS Securities' office in Tel Aviv.

Koor Industries, which also lists ADRs, lost 1.1% to NIS 354.

Elbit Medical Imaging, another company with US-listed shares, sank 5.7% to NIS 39.7 after soaring 33% since Sunday. The maker of medical scanners said last week it will sell a computer X-ray division for $275 million and a nuclear medicine unit for $100m. to General Electric Co.

Poalim Investments gained 1.1% to NIS 119.9. The investment company said Teledata Communications, in which it owns about 20%, is negotiating to sell a stake in itself to a foreign company. The daily *Ma'ariv* newspaper said Teledata is talking with the US's ADC Telecommunications about selling shares for a 20% premium to market value.

Asia

Hong Kong stocks rose for a second day, pacing gains in Australia and Singapore, after hints that the US and other industrialized countries may cut interest rates spurred optimism that some Asian companies will see more demand from their biggest export markets.

Hong Kong's benchmark Hang Seng Index rose 71.61 points, or 0.93 percent, to 7,733.47. China Merchants, an arm of state-controlled China Merchants Group, and several other Chinese stocks rose as much as 5% as a group on hopes that the People's Bank of China is poised to cut rates for the fourth time since October.

Gains in Asia's markets, battered by shrinking economies and mounting bankruptcies, came after a call by the Group of Seven leading industrial nations for "close cooperation" in stimulating economic growth. The statement suggests US Federal Reserve policymakers may soon push rates lower, analysts said.

In Hong Kong, Asia's second-biggest stock market after Japan, lower US rates would ease pressure on the territory's pegged currency and also help bolster the flagging property market.

The Fed next meets on September 29 to discuss interest-rate policy.

Japanese financial markets were closed yesterday for a holiday.

STOCKS



Maof 298.93 ▼ 1.24%
Dow Jones 8024.39 ▲ 1.0%
FTSE 5281.7 ▲ 0.25%
Nikkei closed

Europe

UK stocks traded mixed, as doubts company earnings will grow much this year were offset by Bank of England Governor Eddie George's broadest hint yet that the next move in interest rates will be down.

The FTSE 100 Index closed higher for a second day, erasing an 88-point loss to close up 13.1 at 5281.7 after a 150-point gain yesterday. British Telecommunications Plc. led, boosted by a $7 billion windfall from the sale of its stake in MCI Communications Inc. to WorldCom Inc.

"Certainly, the indications seem to be that interest rates have peaked," said John Hatherly, the head of research at M&G Investment Management Ltd., which has about £19 billion under management. "We see a quarter-point cut." (Bloomberg)

Wall Street

Stocks ended on the plus side for the third straight session yesterday. The Dow Jones industrial average ended up 79.04 points at 8,024.39, building on Monday's 150-point jump and Friday's 180-point leap.

In the broader market, advancing issues beat 1,740 to 1,296 on active volume of 719 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

The Nasdaq composite index rose 12.42 points to 1,678.11.

Analysts said the market was betting that Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan will have some positive things to say on interest rates today.

The Standard & Poor's composite index of 500 stocks rose 7.96 points to 1,037.68. The American Stock Exchange index was up 4.98 to 624.28.

The NYSE Composite index of all listed common stocks rose 3.71 to 513.92. The average share was up 29 cents.

The Wilshire Associates Equity Index – the market value of NYSE, American and Nasdaq issues – was 9,453.670 up 75.094 or 0.80 percent.

(Reuters)

Mark rises as interest cut seen in US

The dollar fell against the mark for the first time in three days on expectations the US Federal Reserve will cut interest rates this month, while Germany's central bank will keep its rates on hold.

In a sign industrial nations might jointly cut interest rates, Group of Seven finance officials yesterday said the risk of a global economic slowdown now outweighs inflation concerns.

Still, Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer dismissed speculation Germany would be part of a coordinated move, because accelerating growth in Europe makes lowering rates inadvisable.

"The implication is that a rate cut would be led by the US," said James Culnane, a trader at Norddeutsche Landesbank. "You've seen the mark trade up against the dollar and a nice jump in mark-yen as well."

Culnane says it's likely the Fed will cut the fed funds target rate 25 basis points to 5.25 percent when its policy-making committee meets at the end of the month.

The dollar fell to 1.6885 marks from 1.6960 late Monday in New York. The mark rose to 78.64 yen from 77.98 yen.

The dollar rose to 132.70 yen from 132.08 as the outlook for Japan's economy, stuck in its worst slump in 50 years, remains grim. Reflecting that pessimism, the yield on the benchmark Japanese bond, due in 2005, touched a record low 0.765%.

Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party failed last night to win support from major opposition parties for a proposal to bail out troubled financial firms.

The G7 joint statement came after its members – the US, Japan, Germany, France, the UK, Italy, and Canada – met in London to discuss the financial turmoil in global markets.

Germany is reluctant to lower rates in part because of the impending European economic and monetary union, which requires that short-term rates among the 11 founding members must converge by year-end. Germany's benchmark repurchase rate, at 3.30%, is one of the lowest among the member-nations.

Another Bundesbank policy-maker, Ernst Welteke, seconded Tietmeyer's stance, saying a German rate cut isn't the solution to global financial turmoil.

Should the US lower rates, that would lower the allure of US deposits and fixed-income assets. Currently, three-month deposits in dollars produce a return of 5.50%, compared with a 3.46% return on marks and a 0.43% return on yen.

For further signs of Fed policy, traders and investors will be paying close attention to Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan and Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin who testify today to the House Banking Committee on recent global financial problems.

"All eyes are on what Greenspan will say," said Bill Bertha, foreign exchange manager at Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh. "I'll be looking for signs as to what his outlook is on the total world situation, how grave he thinks it is and whether it's getting better or worse."

On Monday, General Motors Chairman and CEO John F. Smith Jr. called on Fed policy-makers to cut interest rates by a half point to 5% to prevent problems elsewhere in the world from slowing domestic growth. Smith said he's in touch with other corporate leaders through the National Association of Manufacturers to begin a coordinated campaign pressing for the rate cut.

Still, some investors don't see demand for dollars drying up until the US economy shows more convincing signs of a slowdown.

Gross domestic product grew 1.60% in the second quarter from the first, and the unemployment rate held at 4.5% in August from July.

"It's going to be more what's happening in the US" that will prompt a rate move, said Mike Grimble of Norwich Union Investment Management. "The Fed will continue to sit on its hands."

(Bloomberg)

CURRENCIES



Dollar 3.841 ▲ 0.1%
Basket 4.174 ▲ 0.36%
Mark 2.276 ▲ 1.10%
Sterling 6.477 ▲ 0.37%

Nickel surges after producer cuts back

Precious Metals

Gold for December delivery rose as much as $2.30 an ounce, or 0.8 percent, to $295.70 an ounce on the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The dollar fell against some other major currencies amid speculation that the US Federal Reserve is poised to cut interest rates this month. A weaker US currency makes dollar-priced gold less expensive for buyers using other currencies.

Also, demand for gold will likely rise in the coming month as jewelers and other fabricators step up purchases in preparation for the busy year-end holiday season.

Oil

Crude oil for October delivery was little changed at $14.38 a barrel, down 4 cents on the New York Mercantile Exchange, as traders await a weekly US inventory report and any word of any possible production cutbacks from a gathering of Persian Gulf oil ministers. The American Petroleum Institute was expected to release its weekly report on oil inventories after trading yesterday.

Also, four oil ministers, including those from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, will meet in Kuwait City today to discuss oil prices. A dispute between Iran and Afghanistan poses little immediate threat to world oil supplies, traders said.

COMMODITIES



Gold $290.45 ▲ 0.1%
Crude Oil $13.09 ▲ 0.24%
CRB 202.42 ▲ 0.84%

Others

Cocoa for December delivery fell as much as $24, or 1.5 percent, to $1,560 a metric ton on the Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange. Economic turmoil in East Asia and Russia is seen cutting demand for luxury foods such as chocolate, as weakened local currencies crimped demand for commodities priced in other currencies.

Russia stopped imports of cocoa beans and confectionery earlier this month after a 70% fall in the ruble in three weeks. Rising cocoa consumption in Russia was expected to contribute to a fall in global stockpiles this year. Russia accounts for about 4% of global cocoa grindings, a closely watched indicator of demand.

Nickel for delivery in three months surged as much as $130, or 3%, to $4,250 a metric ton on the London Metal Exchange after WMC Ltd., Australia's largest nickel producer, said it would cut production at three of its seven mines because of high costs. The stoppage will reduce global supply by 10,000 tons, about 10% of the company's annual production. Analysts had been expecting mine cutbacks after the price of nickel fell to a 10-year low in July, leaving most producers operating at a loss.

White sugar for October delivery fell as much as $4.70, or 2.2%, to $208.80 a metric ton on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange, its lowest since exchange records began in 1989. Heavy supplies from bumper crops in the European Union and Brazil, combined with sluggish demand for imported sugar in Asia and Russia, have driven prices down 32% since a year ago.

(Bloomberg)

US bonds rise on rate cut speculation

US bonds rose, with yields near record lows, amid speculation that the Federal Reserve and other central banks will cut interest rates soon to quell global financial turbulence and spur growth

"We see a US economy that's slowing," and that may give the Fed more leeway to cut rates, said Donald Ross, director of fixed-income at National City Corp. in Cleveland. "Bonds have more room to run."

The 30-year Treasury bond rose 9/32, or $2.81 per $1,000 bond, pushing its yield down 2 basis points to 5.21 percent. Two- year note yields – among the securities most sensitive to expectations for Fed policy – fell 4 basis points to 4.65%.

"I think the Fed will cut rates – the question is not if but when," said Patricia Larkin of Dreyfus Corp.

Also helping bonds were declines in stocks in the US and across Europe, which kept up the allure of Treasuries as a less risky investment, traders said.

Bonds Monday recovered from losses of about 5/8 to end little changed after a statement from the G7 led to speculation a coordinated series of interest rate cuts may be imminent.

"There's still some thought that the Fed is going to cut rates soon and there's also talk of a concerted rate cut," by one or more major central banks, said William Gamba of SG Cowen.

Officials from the G7 nations said inflation is low and falling in much of the world, and the "balance of risks" in the global economy has shifted toward slower growth.

Adding to expectations for lower rates, US President Bill Clinton Monday called on countries around the world to stimulate their economies at a time when inflation is less of a risk than falling prices.

Today, Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan and Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin will testify to the House Banking Committee on recent global financial problems, and may offer clues about the outlook for interest rates. Fed officials next meet to set rate policy on September 29, after leaving their target for overnight lending between banks unchanged since March 1997.

BONDS



US 30 -year T-bill yield
5.21 ▼ 0.02

"That's the main event globally," for the next few days, said Eric Fishwick, the international economist at Nikko Europe. "If Greenspan is more relaxed about emerging-market threats, and plays up the need to be vigilant on inflation," that will contribute to pessimism about a cut in rates.

Yesterday, a report showing a smaller-than-expected gain in retail sales in August helped bolster expectations for a rate cut by providing signs the US economy may be slowing a bit. The Labor Department said retail sales rose 0.2% last month, less than the 0.5 percent gain expected by analysts surveyed by Bloomberg News. In July, sales fell a revised 0.6%.

"In the context of everything else going on, this report may add slightly to the possibility of a rate cut this month," said David Resler, chief economist at Nomura Securities International. Still, Resler said he's not willing just yet to come down one way or the other on whether central bank officials will move to cut rates at that time.

Even if the Fed does cut rates, some investors said gains may be limited for Treasuries, with yields on all government debt already below the fed funds rate.

The yield on the bellwether 30-year bond already fell about 1/2 percentage point in the past two months, as stocks slumped amid concern slowing economies will hurt corporate profits.

(Bloomberg)

	LAST	CHANGE*
Telef De Espana	111.125	+9.4375
Temple Inland	48.4375	+1.0625
Tenneco	33.9375	+0.1875
Tenet Health	28.9375	-0.125
Teradyne	20.125	-0.625
Tesoro Pet	13.4375	+0.0625
Texaco	60.6875	+0.125
Texas Instruments	53.0625	-0.3125
Texas Utilities	43.125	+0.5625
Textron	66.0625	+0.5625
Thiokol	-	-
Thomas & Betts	36.75	+0.6875
ThreeCom	30.3125	+2.875
Time Warner	86.5	-0.4375
Times-Mirror	55.625	-0.3125
Timken	17.75	-0.125
Torchmark	37.4375	+0.0625
Tosco Corp	22.25	-0.375
Toys R Us	18.8125	+0.75
Transamerica	118.75	+5.3125
Transco Energy	62.8125	+1.0625
Travelers Grp	42.875	+1.375
Tribune	60.8125	-0.875
Triton Energy	11.9375	+0.375
TWA	6.25	+0.125
Tyco Intl Ltd.	56.375	-0.125
Tyler	7.9375	-0.1875
UAL Corp	72.75	+3.5625
USG Corp	45.9375	-0.1875
UST Inc	28.8125	+0.8125
USX Marathon	33.125	-0.6875
USX-US Steel	21.0625	-0.1875
Ultramar Diam	27.0625	-0.75
Unicom Corp	36.25	+0.25
Unilever PLC	39.3125	-0.25
Unilever NV	66.8125	-0.875
Union Camp	39.875	+1.1875
Union Carbide	38.625	-0.3125
Union Pacific	40.125	+0.5625
Unisys Corp	24.1875	+0.8575
USAIR Group	58.25	+2.125
USF&G Corp	-	-
US Home	28.4375	+0.5
US Surgical	42.5	+0.4375
US Trust	69.5625	+1.4375
US West	62	+0.0625
United Tech	79.9375	+0.5625
Unocal Corp	35.9375	+0.0625
VF Corp	39.625	+0.0625
VMFX Pharmaceutic	1.125	-0.0625
Valero Energy	20.5	+0.0625
Varian Assoc	34.75	+0.5625
Viacom Inc	51.75	+1.1875
Vishay	10.8125	-0.4375
Vulcan Materials	105.25	+0.25
Wachovia	86.0625	+2.375
Walgreen	44.1875	+0.8125
Wal-Mart Stores	82.5	+1.3125
Warner-Lambert	73.5	+2.375
Wash Gas Light	26	+0
Washington Mutu	35.125	+0.625
Washington Post	506.375	-3.875
Waste Mgmnt Inc	47.8375	-0.625
Watkins-Johnson	17.8125	+0
Wells Markets	33.875	-0.1875
Wells Fargo	332	+10
Wendy's Intl	21.8125	+0.1875
Westvaco	28.0625	+0.1875
Weyerhaeuser	41.4375	+1.25
Whirlpool	48.625	+0
Whittman	15.5	-0.75
Williams Co	26.8125	-1.1875
Winn Dixie Stos	70	+0.1875
Woolworth	10.5625	+0.75
World Comm	45.5	-2.25
Worthington Ind	11.75	+0.25
Wrigley	76.1875	-0.25
Xerox	87.75	+0.125
Yahoo	84.375	+0.5
Yellow Freight	14	+0.625
Zero Co	-	-

LONDON

Allied Domecq	485	-0.5
BAT Inds	444	-1.25
BT	821	+20
BTR	119	-5.5
Barclays	1090	-26
Bass	822	+6
Boots	1000	+0
British Airways	412	+10
Comm Union plc	900	-1
Diageo	585	-11.5
General Electric	474	+1
Glaxo	1832	+33
Halifax	783	+12.5
HSBC (75p shs)	1174	-1
ICI	520	-38
Land Securities	908	-13.5
Lloyds Bank	877	+2
Marks & Spencer	485	+3
NatWest Bank	909	-9
Prudential	823	+1
Reuters	509	+31.5
Sainsbury	567	+8.5
Shell Transport	370	-5.75
Tyco Intl	3150	+0
Unilever	542	-9
Zeneca	2312	+8

PARIS

Accor	1340	+1
Air Liquide	870	+25
Alcatel Alsthom	985	-37
Euro Disney	9.2	+0
Moulinex	117	-3
Perfos	401	-3.8
Pernod Ricard	390.1	+6
Peugeot	1020	+4
Saint Gobain	838	-7

	LAST	CHANGE*
Bayer	54.6	-1.9
Daimler-Benz	154	-4
Lufthansa	35.8	-0.05
Mannesmann	-	-
Metallgesellschaft	30.2	-0.8
Volkswagen	124	-1.6

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 15-SEP-98)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

	Last	Change
Sel (Basket) (1)	4.1737	0
U.S. Dollar (1)	3.841	0
British Pound (1)	6.4471	0
Deutsch Mark (1)	2.2766	0
French Franc (1)	0.6787	0
Japanese Yen (100)	2.89	0
Swiss Franc (1)	2.7585	0
Canadian Dollar (1)	2.5522	0
Italian Lira (1000)	2.2795	0
Jordanian Dinar (1)	5.3866	0

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	8024.39	+79.04
DJ Transport	2663.7	+58.56
DJ Utils	230.98	+3.22
DJ Comp	2566.62	+33.38
NYSE Industr	638.37	+2.58
NYSE Transport	417.84	+8.07
NYSE Comp	513.92	+3.71
S&P 100	504.7	+3.04
S&P Spot Index	1037.86	+7.93
Israel Index	207.98	-0.4

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	5252.1	-16.5
Tokyo Nikkei	14227.3	0
Singapore all-share index	273.56	0
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index	7733.4	+71.6
Israel Index	207.98	-0.4
Paris CAC 40	3626	-16.61
DAX	4896.46	+159.34
Madrid	711.43	+16.89
Swiss Market Index	6585.7	-95.3
Sydney	2654.3	+44.1
Milan	1245.38	+42.29

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

	Last	Change
Pound: spot	1.6755	-0.0045
Dec.future (CME)	1.6666	-0
D-mark: spot	1.893	-0.0056
Dec.future (CME)	0.595	+0.0029
S-franc: spot	1.3955	-0.0045
Dec.future (CME)	0.7245	+0.0033
Yen: spot	134.05	+1.38
Dec.future (CME)	0.00757	-7.8e-005
CanDlr: spot	1.5022	-0.0016
Dec.future (CME)	0.6651	+0.0034
AusDlr: spot	0.5662	+0.0006
Dec.future (CME)	0.596	-0
F-franc: spot	5.671	-0.018
N Lira: spot	1671	-4
Mkr: spot	1.5077	-0.0085
AusShlg: spot	11.8851	-0.0801
Rand: spot	6.145	-0.1
ECU: spot	1.1821	+0.0033

US COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Sep) (CEC)	1526	-30
Coffee (Sep) (CEC)	111.9	+4.3
Wheat (Sep) (CBOT)	254.25	+5.75
Soybean (Sep) (CBOT)	532	+2.25
Sugar (Oct) (CEC)	7.15	+0.12
Orange juice (Sep)(CEC)	110.15	0
Crude Oil (Dec)(NYMEX)	14.86	+0.05
Bonds Dec.future	127.23	-0.15
S and P Dec.future	1047	+5.6

LONDON COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Sep) (LCE)	1010	-5
Coffee (Sep) (LCE)	1695	+0
Brent crude oil (Dec)(IPE)	1354	+8

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

	Last	Change
Silver: spot	4.96	+0

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

	Last	Change
Gold (Dec)	293	-0.4
Silver (Dec)	4.955	-0.005
Platinum (Oct)	368.6	+1.2
Palladium (Sep)	295	-5.5
High-grade copper (Sep)	0.77	+0.009

LONDON METAL FIXES

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	290.35	+0.05
Gold PM fix	290.65	+0.45
Silver fix	493	+24

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date (Spot market listings are from approximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 15-SEP-98)

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Telefax : 972-9-9585896
E-Mail : meiras@trendline.co.il
Contact : Elan Levi

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	4.770	4.800	5.090
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.550	5.540	5.620
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.180	2.280	2.700
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.060	0.190	0.560
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (15.9.98)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Buy	Sell	BANKNOTES Buy	Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	4.1360	4.2028	—	—	4.1737
U.S. dollar	3.8043	3.8657	3.73	3.92	3.8410
German mark	2.2568	2.2933	2.21	2.33	2.2756
Pound sterling	6.3993	6.5026	6.28	6.60	6.4471
French franc	0.6730	0.6839	0.66	0.70	0.6787
Japanese yen (100)	2.8658	2.9121	2.81	2.96	2.8909
Dutch florin	2.0011	2.0334	1.96	2.07	2.0181
Swiss franc	2.7363	2.7805	2.68	2.82	2.7585
Swedish krona	0.4888	0.4967	0.48	0.51	0.4932
Norwegian krone	0.5063	0.5145	0.49	0.53	0.5111
Danish krone	0.5918	0.6014	0.58	0.61	0.5970
Finnish mark	0.7411	0.7531	0.72	0.77	0.7475
Canadian dollar	2.5330	2.5739	2.48	2.61	2.5522
Australian dollar	2.2768	2.3136	2.23	2.35	2.2956
S. African rand	0.6122	0.6221	0.55	0.63	0.6175
Belgian franc (10)	1.0938	1.1115	1.07	1.13	1.1032
Austrian schilling (10)	3.2078	3.2596	3.15	3.31	3.2341
Italian lira (1000)	2.2852	2.3221	2.24	2.36	2.3042
Jordanian dinar	5.3469	5.4332	5.25	5.64	5.3966
Egyptian pound	—	—	1.08	1.17	1.1331
ECU	4.4319	4.5034	—	—	4.4686
Irish punt	5.8490	5.7402	5.55	5.92	5.8954
Spanish peseta (100)	2.6557	2.6986	2.61	2.74	2.6790

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY
PHARMACIES
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Tel Aviv: Superpharm, 40 Einstein, 641-3730; Superpharm Dizengoff Center, 50 Dizengoff, 620-0975.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Kinneret, 119 Weizmann, Kfar Sava, 767-3228.
Netanya: Tzel-Arazim, 24 Weizmann, 834-1732.
Haifa: Super Pharm, 2 Khoury, 051-582021; Sieff Square, 1 Shalom Aleichem, 823-5064.
Krayot area: Kupat Holim Maccabi, 1 Moshe Goshen, Kiryat Motzkin, 871-7063.
Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), [illegible] Pituah, 954-9903. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS
Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (internal, surgery, obstetrics, ophthalmology, ENT); Hadassah Mt. Scopus (orthopedics); Shaare Zedek (pediatrics).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

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FIRE 102
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Dan Region* 5793333	Rehovot* 9451333
Eilat* 6332444	Rishon* 9642333
Haifa* 8512233	Safed 6920333
Jerusalem* 6523133	Tel Aviv* 5460111
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The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.
Eran – Emotional First Aid – 1201, also Jerusalem 02-561-0303 (Arabic: 563-0301); Tel Aviv 03-546-1111 (children/youth 546-0739); Rishon Lezion 03-956-6661/2; Haifa 04-867-2222 (Arabic: 867-2226); Beersheba 07-649-4333; Netanya 09-862-5110; Karmiel 04-988-8770 (Arabic: 958-3444); Kfar Sava 09-767-4555; Hadera 06-634-6789; Nazareth (Arabic: 06-645-4222).
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Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-546-1133, 07-637-6310, 08-855-0506.
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صكرا من الاصل

Not a Dickie Bird in sight

London Calling



Mark Rivlin

IT might not have been the most auspicious ending to a glittering career, but on Sunday evening at a coolish grey-skied Headingley in Leeds, cricket's most famous umpire Harold Dennis (Dickie) Bird drew the stumps out of the ground for the last time after the Yorkshire-Warwickshire AXA League game.

The previous day, Bird had stood in his final first-class game at the same venue as his native Yorkshire beat Warwickshire in the County Championship.

The many superlatives used to describe Bird have been well earned in a first-class umpiring career which has spanned 28 years. He has stood in 160 internationals, 93 one-day internationals, four World Cups, three World Cup finals and 67 Tests, not to mention the hundreds of domestic county and one-day games. Some commentators have suggested that Bird should have retired from Test cricket earlier than 1996, as television replays were showing his reactions to be suspect, but Bird was always going to leave the international stage at his own moment of choosing.

Bird was a class above the others, because he demanded respect from both players and fellow officials, and his raw Yorkshire personality well cultivated by the marketing and PR people in television and publishing has won him fans from many walks of life outside cricket. Bird's autobiography is the best-selling sports book in history – it was in the top six sellers for 36 weeks – with 350,000 copies sold, including 60,000 in Australia. And you can bet those same 350,000 will be out trying to get an autographed edition of the second volume launched over the weekend.

Son of a Barnsley coal miner, Bird is a no-nonsense Yorkshireman who never quite made it to the first-class grade as a player, but used his love and knowledge of the game to make it big in umpiring and become one of the great characters of cricket.

To see the diminutive Bird berating giant West Indies' paceman Curtly Ambrose for running on to the wicket, or giving a stiff finger wagging to patrons of a hospitality box at Old Trafford for putting off a batsman are icons of a game sadly lacking in modern heroes.

But it is the way Bird wore his heart on his sleeve which won the affection of the British public. Who will ever forget the Centenary Test between England and Australia at Lord's when earlier torrential rain prevented Bird from allowing play to restart despite overhead clear skies? As the crowd booed its disapproval, Bird was in floods as big as those on the outfield – he knew what was at stake, but could not allow the players' safety to be compromised and went on television to give a full explanation.

The 1975 World Cup final between West Indies and Australia at Lord's was one of Bird's favorite matches. The game went on until 9pm as Jeff Thomson and Denis Lillee tried unsuccessfully to rescue the Aussies from defeat. You could see Bird visibly twitching as the light dimmed – on any other type of cricketing occasion he would have the players off the field an hour earlier as the evening turned to night.

Bird has been typically stoical over the past week, giving few interviews, preferring instead to retire to his Barnsley home and mull over a future which will be emptier without umpiring. "I'll particularly miss the big occasions," Bird told Rob Steen from *Wisden Cricket Monthly* magazine. "I've always enjoyed what I do. Once you lose that sense of enjoyment you're done for, but I never did. I turned down tremendous money to join Packer and the rebel tours, but I've always been establishment. I always felt I was representing my country."

That sense of establishment was never more embodied than when Bird, the committed Royalist, collected his OBE award from the queen last year and once again had to fight hard to hold back the tears.

The rules of the England and Wales Cricket Board demand that an umpire retires at 65, otherwise you can be sure Bird would be carrying on. "I've been drawing my pension for seven weeks, and I'm not sure what the future holds. Perhaps I could be some sort of ambassador for the game," Bird said last week.

Along with the royalties from the book, Bird has lucrative after-dinner speaking work to enhance his pension, but he will find the summer emptiness difficult.

But Bird, who never married, will take into retirement fond memories and a plethora of friends, one of the closest being fellow Barnsleyite, broadcaster Michael Parkinson who came up with the biggest compliment of all in a foreword to the autobiography: "Only Shakespeare could have invented a character so full of life's riches. Cricket's genius has been to accommodate his foibles and celebrate his humor."

UMPIRES



THE ONE AND ONLY – Dickie Bird. (Reuters)

SPORTS

in brief

Cyclists hold 'Tour D'Israel'

While highways are criss-crossing this country and growing steadily in number, a group of cyclists set out on Monday to prove that Israel can be traversed from Metulla to Eilat by bike.

Nearly a hundred riders left the most northern town in Israel at 2 am for a 530-kilometer ride, the Tour D'Israel, cycling into Eilat yesterday morning at 7 am. The distance was divided into 50 sections with riders cycling in groups and each covering an average distance of 10km.

Organized jointly by Green Course and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, the ride aimed to increase opposition for the Trans-Israel Highway as well as to boost awareness of alternative public transport in Israel.

A letter declaring these aims was delivered to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by the riders. *Heather Chait*

Local golf

Three teams tied with 67 strokes at the better ball stroke play tournament over the weekend at the Caesarea Golf Club.

Aviva Dankner and Rick Groebel slipped into first place with their score of 32 strokes on the back nine. Jules Cuburnek and Mendy Kliger with 33 strokes took second place and Albert Elias and Uri Aylon with 34 strokes were third.

In the Eli Kirshner cup match play tournament, Jeff Strubel will play Yitzhak Dankner to determine the 1998 champion. Strubel reached the final at the expense of Eli Segal whom he defeated in a sudden death playoff on the 19th hole.

After 12 rounds in the national Coca Cola golf league, Kfar Shmaryahu is out in front with 57 points, with Kfar Saba second on 36 and Herzliya third with 21. *Heather Chait*

Camacho takes over as Spain's coach

Jose Antonio Camacho yesterday agreed to a two-year contract to coach the Spanish national soccer team.

"I'm very proud to take over this job," Camacho said in a news conference to announce the appointment.

The move brought to an end a frantic search by the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) for a successor to Javier Clemente, who departed last week after a shock 3-2 defeat to Cyprus. *Reuters*

CLASSIFIEDS

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Add another title to Atlanta's collection

MY CALL
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Seven and counting.

It doesn't matter whether it's West or East, the Atlanta Braves have managed to transform the tricky task of capturing a division championship into a rather blase accomplishment.

As the baseball world lets out a collective yawn, the Braves clinched their seventh straight division crown Monday, winning the NL East with a 4-2 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies.

Atlanta began its unprecedented run of title-hoarding in 1991, when still a member of the NL West under the old two-division alignment. Since switching to the East when baseball went to three divisions in each league, the Braves have added four more trophies to their collection, the only exception being the strike-halted season of 1994.

By winning another division title, the Braves moved into some exclusive company. Among the major pro sports leagues – baseball, NFL, NBA and NHL – only seven franchises have finished first during the regular season at least seven times in a row.

Two NBA teams, the Boston Celtics and Los Angeles Lakers, are at the top of the list. The Celtics won nine straight Eastern Division titles between 1957 and '65, while the Lakers were Pacific Division champions from 1982-90.

The NHL's Montreal Canadiens won eight straight division titles – seven in the Norris, another as part of the Adams – from 1975-82.

The list of teams with seven straight firsts includes one team from each of the four sports. Along with the Braves, there's the Los Angeles Rams (NFL Western winner, 1973-79); Milwaukee Bucks (NBA Midwest winner, 1980, Central champion, 1981-86); and Detroit Red Wings (first overall in the six-team NHL, 1949-55).

The run of 1990s dominance also has moved the Braves to the brink of the top spot in overall division titles since baseball went to that format in 1969. The Oakland A's have 10 division championships, while the Braves are tied with Pittsburgh at nine.

As the Braves have demonstrated, regular-season dominance doesn't necessarily translate into postseason success. Atlanta has captured just one World Series title, which is one more championship than the Rams and Bucks had during their divisional runs, but far fewer than the Celtics (eight NBA titles) or the Lakers, Red Wings and Canadiens (four championships each).

Atlanta won another division title even though Mark Wohlers, a once-dominant closer, suddenly and inexplicably lost the ability to throw strikes.

The bullpen was revamped, with former independent leaguer Kerry Ligtenberg as the closer and journeyman Rudy Seanez as the setup man. Even before Seanez's right arm began ailing in recent days, the bullpen was the biggest question mark heading to the postseason, a hodgepodge collection ranging from the fuzzy-faced (rookies John Rocker and Odalis Perez) to the ancient (43-year-old Dennis Martinez).

Surprisingly, the starting rotation also is somewhat of a concern. Greg Maddux leads the majors with a 2.15 ERA but has struggled in the second half, while Denny Neagle has been idle since September 1 because of an ailing left shoulder.

Otherwise, the team appears as solid as ever. The Braves lead the NL with 204 homers, surpassing 200 for only the third time in franchise history.

Thirty-seven-year-old Andres Galarraga has hardly looked his age, giving the Braves a much-needed right-handed bat in the middle of the order. He has combined with Jones and Javy Lopez to give Atlanta three 100-RBI players for the first time since 1970. "This is the best team we've had, without a doubt," third baseman Chipper Jones said.

But there's a troubling aspect to the Braves, who lost 10 of 12 recently before bouncing back to win four of five.

While beating up on weaker teams hasn't been a problem, the Braves have been rather ordinary when facing the better clubs, going 5-4 against NL West-leading San Diego, 4-5 against Houston, 3-6 against the Chicago Cubs and 1-3 in an interleague series against the New York Yankees.

Those are just the kind of teams that will be waiting in the playoffs.

"Without a doubt, the parity in the National League this year is 10 times better has been in past," Jones said. "It's going to be a tough road to hoe." Nevertheless, it's on to the postseason for the Braves, whose main obstacle to a fifth World Series this decade appears to be Houston, playing better than any team since acquiring Randy Johnson.

A year ago, the Astros were swept by the Braves in the first round. This year, Houston probably would be favored in a rematch. (AP)

Braves clinch 7th straight title

ATLANTA (AP) – Tom Glavine was on hand for Atlanta's first division title of the 1990s. Appropriately, he played a key role Monday night when the Braves made it seven in a row.

Already the only team with six straight division titles, Atlanta added another to its collection when Glavine fought through control problems to become the NL's first 19-game winner, beating the Philadelphia Phillies 4-2.

Division titles have become so routine in Atlanta that the clinching game drew only 33,367, the second-smallest crowd at Turner Field since May 28. Even the celebration at the end of the game seemed routine.

Mets 7, Astros 4 (13)

The host Astros clinched their second straight NL Central championship despite their 13-inning loss to the New York Mets.

The Astros' title was ensured about an hour later when second-place Chicago lost to San Diego 4-3. The Cubs' defeat dropped them into a tie with the Mets for the wild-card lead.

Padres 4, Cubs 3

Sammy Sosa struck out four times for the first time this year, cooling off following an amazing weekend in Chicago, and Ken Caminiti's home run in the eighth inning lifted host San Diego to victory.

The Padres (95-56) pulled within a game of Atlanta and Houston (96-55) for the NL's best record.

Cardinals 7, Pirates 3

Mark McGwire was back in the lineup. He just didn't look like a home run king.

A day after leaving a game at Houston early because of minor back spasms, the St. Louis Cardinals' slugger was a quiet 2-for-4, taking few healthy swings in a win over visiting Pittsburgh.

Brewers 2, Reds 1

Jeromy Burnitz drove in two runs with his 37th homer and an RBI double, leading visiting Milwaukee to victory.

Expos 4, Marlins 2

Dustin Hermanson won his third straight decision and Brad Fullmer hit a three-run homer to lead host Montreal to victory.

The Marlins lost for the 16th time in 18 games. Florida leads the majors with 102 losses.

Diamondbacks 14, Giants 2

Travis Lee drove in five runs, three with a two-out double in the second, as host Arizona routed San Francisco for its most one-sided victory.

Arizona had club-record 17 hits.



ROUTINE CELEBRATION – Atlanta Braves Danny Bautista pours champagne on himself and pitcher Dennis Martinez, as they celebrate clinching their seventh straight NL Division Title. (Reuters)

Wild Card standings

National League

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	84	67	.556	–
New York	84	67	.556	–
San Francisco	80	70	.533	3½

American League

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	83	65	.561	–
Toronto	81	69	.540	3
Texas	79	70	.530	4½

The last one came when Yamil Benitez hit a high fly ball in the eighth inning that became the first ever to strike the roof of Bank One Ballpark.

Dodgers 4, Rockies 1

Carlos Perez pitched a seven-hitter for his third consecutive complete game and Juan Castro scored the go-ahead run on a three-base error as host Los Angeles won.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Indians 6, Blue Jays 3

Dwight Gooden won his fifth straight decision as host Cleveland won, keeping the Blue Jays from closing in the AL wild-card race.

Cleveland, seeking its fourth straight AL Central title, reduced its magic number to three.

Yankees 3, Red Sox 0

Orlando Hernandez (10-4) pitched a three-hitter for his first shutout. The Red Sox lost for the ninth time in 11 games.

Ramon Martinez (18-6) allowed all three runs and seven hits in seven innings, striking out nine and walking none. Martinez, winless in three starts, lost to the Yankees last week at Fenway Park.

Angels 4, Devil Rays 2

Todd Greene and Garret Anderson hit RBI doubles during a four-run eighth inning as visiting Anaheim ended a three-game losing streak and the Angels increased their AL West lead to two games over Texas.

Shigetoshi Hasegawa (8-3) pitched two scoreless relief innings. Troy Percival pitched a perfect ninth for his 40th save, extending his own career high.

Orioles 1, Rangers 0

Pinch-hitter Eric Davis drove in the game's lone run with an eighth-inning sacrifice fly as host Baltimore won its sixth straight.

Royals 16, Athletics 6

Mike Sweeney and Jeff King hit three-run homers, and Dean Palmer drove in four runs.

Ricky Bones (2-1) relieved Jose Rosado with one out in the fifth, and Scott Service pitched 2 1/3 innings for his fourth save.

Mariners 10, Twins 3

Mac Suzuki (1-1) got his first major league win and Russ Davis hit a three-run homer as visiting Seattle dealt Minnesota its fifth straight loss. Suzuki allowed three runs and five hits in 6 1/3 innings.

Edgar Martinez hit his 27th homer, a 412-foot drive off Brad Radke (11-14). Ken Griffey Jr., who leads the AL with 51 homers, went 0-for-5.

White Sox 17, Tigers 16 (12)

Host Chicago's Ray Durham and Craig Wilson led off the 12th inning with homers off Doug Bochtler (0-2). Albert Belle had five RBIs and a career-high five hits, including three doubles.

National League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-Atlanta	96	55	.636	–
New York	84	67	.556	12
Philadelphia	70	80	.467	25½
Montreal	60	91	.397	36
Florida	49	102	.325	47
Central Division				
x-Houston	96	55	.636	–
Chicago	84	67	.556	12
St. Louis	74	76	.493	21½
Milwaukee	71	80	.470	25
Cincinnati	69	82	.457	27
Pittsburgh	67	82	.450	28
West Division				
x-San Diego	95	56	.629	–
San Francisco	80	70	.533	14½
Los Angeles	77	74	.510	18
Colorado	72	80	.474	23½
Arizona	60	91	.397	35

x-clinched division title

American League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-New York	104	44	.703	–
Boston	85	65	.561	21
Toronto	81	69	.540	24
Baltimore	77	73	.517	27½
Tampa Bay	58	90	.392	46
Central Division				
Cleveland	82	66	.554	–
Chicago	71	78	.477	11½
Kansas City	68	80	.459	14
Minnesota	65	84	.436	17½
Detroit	57	93	.380	26
West Division				
Anaheim	81	68	.544	–
Texas	79	70	.530	2
Oakland	69	80	.463	12
Seattle	68	80	.459	12½

x-clinched division title

NATIONAL LEAGUE LEADERS

BATTING – LWalker, Colorado, .357; Olerud, New York, .342; Bichette, Colorado, .339; Piazza, New York, .330; Cirillo, Milwaukee, .329; Biggio, Houston, .328; VGuerrero, Montreal, .327; Kendall, Pittsburgh, .327.

RUNS – Sosa, Chicago, 123; Biggio, Houston, 121; Bagwell, Houston, 119; ChJones, Atlanta, 118; McGwire, St. Louis, 118; GVaughn, San Diego, 109; Rolen, Philadelphia, 108.

RBI – Sosa, Chicago, 148; Castilla, Colorado, 137; McGwire, St. Louis, 131; Burnitz, Milwaukee, 122; Alou, Houston, 122; Bichette, Colorado, 119; GVaughn, San Diego, 116; Galarraga, Atlanta, 116.

HITS – Bichette, Colorado, 212; Biggio, Houston, 199; Castilla, Colorado, 198; VGuerrero, Montreal, 190; DeBell, Houston, 185; Sosa, Chicago, 185; Cirillo, Milwaukee, 183; Vina, Milwaukee, 183.

HOME RUNS – Sosa, Chicago, 62; McGwire, St. Louis, 62; GVaughn, San Diego, 49; Castilla, Colorado, 43; Galarraga, Atlanta, 43; Alou, Houston, 38; VGuerrero, Montreal, 37; Burnitz, Milwaukee, 37.

STOLEN BASES – Womack, Pittsburgh, 53; Biggio, Houston, 47; EcYoung, Los Angeles, 42; Renteria, Florida, 41; Floyd, Florida, 27; AJones, Atlanta, 25; BLarkin, Cincinnati, 25.

PITCHING (17 Decisions) – Smoltz, Atlanta, 15-3, .833, 3.10; Glavine, Atlanta, 19-6, .760, 2.83; ALeiter, New York, 15-5, .750, 2.40; KBrown, San Diego, 18-6, .750, 2.36; Tapani, Chicago, 18-7, .720, 4.70; Gardner, San Francisco, 12-5, .706, 4.46; Reynolds, Houston, 18-8, .692, 3.72.

STRIKEOUTS – Schilling, Philadelphia, 284; KBrown, San Diego, 238; Wood, Chicago, 233; GMaddux, Atlanta, 192; Reynolds, Houston, 190; Park, Los Angeles, 170; Dreifort, Los Angeles, 168.

SAVES – Hoffman, San Diego, 50; Beck, Chicago, 46; Shaw, Los Angeles, 43; JFranco, New York, 37; Nen, San Francisco, 36; Urbina, Montreal, 32; BWagner, Houston, 29.

AMERICAN LEAGUE LEADERS

BATTING – BWilliams, New York, .337; MVaughn, Boston, .330; DJeter, New York, .326; IRodriguez, Texas, .325; Garciaparra, Boston, .321; Belle, Chicago, .320; JuGonzalez, Texas, .319; O'Neill, New York, .319.

RUNS – DJeter, New York, 120; Durham, Chicago, 115; ARodriguez, Seattle, 112; Griffey Jr, Seattle, 110; Knoblauch, New York, 109; Edmonds, Anaheim, 106; JnValentin, Boston, 106.

RBI – JuGonzalez, Texas, 151; Belle, Chicago, 137; Griffey Jr, Seattle, 127; MRamirez, Cleveland, 124; RPalmeiro, Baltimore, 117; ARodriguez, Seattle, 116; TMartinez, New York, 115.

HITS – ARodriguez, Seattle, 193; DJeter, New York, 187; O'Neill, New York, 182; MVaughn, Boston, 181; Belle, Chicago, 181; Offerman, Kansas City, 178; JuGonzalez, Texas, 178.

HOME RUNS – Griffey Jr, Seattle, 51; Belle, Chicago, 45; JuGonzalez, Texas, 42; RPalmeiro, Baltimore, 42; Canseco, Toronto, 42; ARodriguez, Seattle, 39; MRamirez, Cleveland, 37.

STOLEN BASES – Henderson, Oakland, 62; Lofton, Cleveland, 54; Stewart, Toronto, 48; ARodriguez, Seattle, 42; Offerman, Kansas City, 40; BLHunter, Detroit, 39; Durham, Chicago, 35; Nixon, Minnesota, 35.

PITCHING (17 Decisions) – DWells, New York, 17-4, .810, 3.35; Cone, New York, 19-6, .760, 3.58; PMartinez, Boston, 18-6, .750, 2.78; Clemens, Toronto, 18-6, .750, 2.69; Helling, Texas, 19-7, .731, 4.30; Rogers, Oakland, 14-7, .667, 3.03; Wakefield, Boston, 15-8, .652, 4.71.

STRIKEOUTS – PMartinez, Boston, 236; Clemens, Toronto, 234; RJohnson, Seattle, 213; CFinley, Anaheim, 199; Cone, New York, 196; Erickson, Baltimore, 169; Saunders, Tampa Bay, 162.

SAVES – Percival, Anaheim, 40; Gordon, Boston, 40; Wetteland, Texas, 39; MJackson, Cleveland, 39; Aguilera, Minnesota, 36; MRivera, New York, 35; JMontgomery, Kansas City, 33.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Florida 000 010 100—2 5 0
Montreal 100 003 00x—4 6 0
Meadows, Edmondson (8) and Knorr; Hermanson, Kline (6), Urbina (9) and Henkey. W—Hermanson, 14-10. L—Meadows, 10-12. Sv—Urbina (32). HRs—Florida, Knorr (2). Montreal, Fullmer (12).

Milwaukee 010 100 000—2 6 0
Cincinnati 000 000 010—1 7 0
Woodard, M.Myers (8), C.Fox (8), Wickman (9) and Matheny; Harnisch, G.White (8) and Taubensee. W—Woodard, 10-11. L—Harnisch, 12-7. Sv—Wickman (24). HR—Milwaukee, Burnitz (37).

Philadelphia 100 010 000—2 10 2
Atlanta 000 111 01x—4 7 0
Schilling and Estalella; Glavine, DeMartinez (7), Rocker (8), Ligtenberg (9) and J.Lopez. W—Glavine, 19-6. L—Schilling, 14-14. Sv—Ligtenberg (28). HRs—Atlanta, Ch.Jones (33), Tucker (13).

Pittsburgh 001 000 002—3 7 1
St. Louis 140 020 00x—7 11 1
Schmidt, Van Poppel (6), McCurry (8) and Kendall; J.Jimenez, Peltowski (8), Frascatore (9), Busby (9) and Marrero. W—J.Jimenez, 1-0. L—Schmidt, 11-12. HR—Pittsburgh, Laker (1).

New York 200 000 002 000 0—7 13 1
Houston 400 000000 000 0—4 9 1
(13 innings) Yoshii, Beltran (7), Tam (8), Wendell (9), Cook (11), McMichael (12), J.Franco (13) and Piazza; Lima, B.Wagner (9), Ja.Powell (9), Elarton (11), Magnante (12), DHenry (13) and Ausmus, Eusebio (12).
W—McMichael, 4-4. L—Magnante, 4-7. Sv—J.Franco (37). HRs—New York, Piazza (31), McRae (21). Houston, Everett (14).

San Francisco 000 00 010—2 7 1
Arizona 257 000 00x—14 17 0
Estes, C.Bailey (2), Darwin (3), Brock (3), Morman (8) and B.Johnson; Bn.Anderson, Nunez (8) and Miller. W—Bn.Anderson, 12-12. L—Estes, 7-11. HRs—San Francisco, Bonds (34), B.Johnson (11).

Colorado 000 000 001—1 7 1
Los Angeles 000 000 04x—4 9 0
B.M.Jones, Leskanic (6), Veres (8) and Manwaring; C.Perez and C.Johnson. W—C.Perez, 10-13. L—B.M.Jones, 7-8. HR—Colorado, K.Abbott (3).

Chicago 010 000 110—3 5 0
San Diego 000 100 21x—4 9 1
M.Clark, F.Heredia (7), Karchner (7) and Servais; Hitchcock, Langston (8), Miceli (8), Hoffman (9) and Leyritz, G.Myers (8). W—Miceli, 10-4. L—Karchner, 3-1. Sv—Hoffman (50). HRs—Chicago, J.Hernandez (23), G.Hill (7). San Diego, G.Vaughn (49), Caminiti (29).

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Texas 000 000 000—0 5 0
Baltimore 000 000 01x—1 8 0
Sele, Cadaret (7), X.Hernandez (8) and I.Rodriguez; Guzman, Mills (8), A.Benitez (9) and Webster. W—Mills, 3-4. L—X.Hernandez, 6-6. Sv—A.Benitez (21).

Toronto 010 001 100—3 7 1
Cleveland 002 000 31x—6 12 0
W.Williams, Sinclair (7), Quantrill (7), Risley (8), VanRyn (8) and Fletcher; B.Santiago (7), Gooden, Shuey (8), M.Jackson (9) and S.Alomar. W—Gooden, 8-6. L—Sinclair, 0-2. Sv—M.Jackson (39). HRs—Toronto, G.Delgado (32), Fletcher (9). Cleveland, Justice (16), Sexson (10).

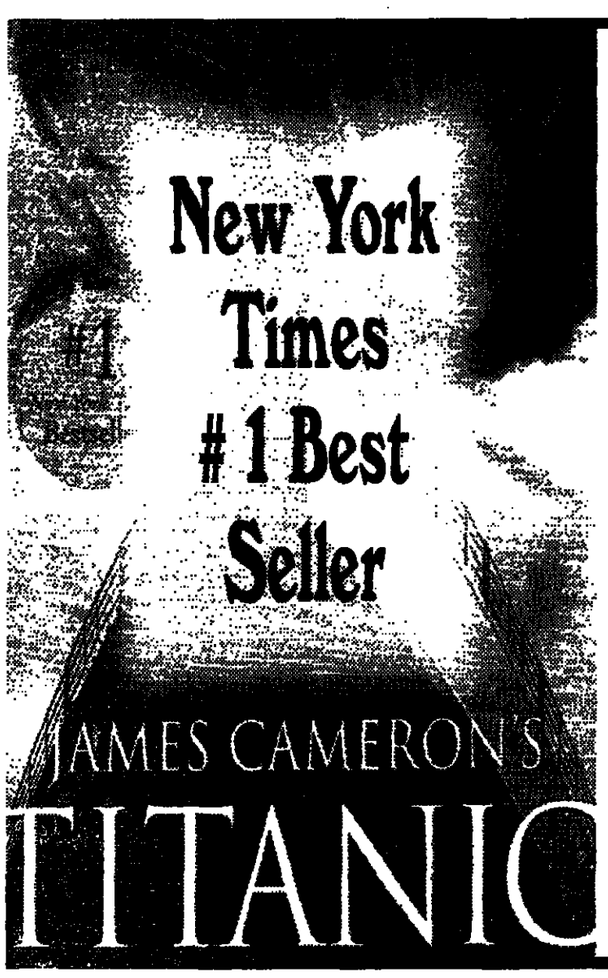
Anaheim 000 000 040—4 9 2
Tampa Bay 000 101 000—2 7 3
Olivares, Hasegawa (7), Percival (9) and Walbeck; W.Alvarez, A.Lopez (8), Aldred (8), Yan (8) and Flaherty. W—Hasegawa, 8-3. L—A.Lopez, 6-3. Sv—Percival (40).

Boston 000 000 000—0 3 0
New York 000 010 20x—3 7 0
P.Martinez, Lowe (8) and Hatteberg; O.Hernandez and Posada. W—O.Hernandez, 10-4. L—P.Martinez, 19-6.

Seattle 030 005 020—10 15 2
Minnesota 102 000 000—3 6 0
Suzuki, Paniagua (7), Gajkowski (9) and D.Wilson; Radke, Serafini (6), Ritchie (9) and Steinbach, Pierzynski (9). W—Suzuki, 1-1. L—Radke, 11-14. HRs—Seattle, E.Martinez (27), R.Davis (20).

Oakland 100 050 000—6 10 2
Kansas City 113 113 24x—18 18 0
Haynes, Stein (5), Groom (7), Holzemer (8) and Macfarlane; Rosado, Bones (5), Whisenant (7), Service (7) and M.Sweeney; Ortiz (9). W—Bones, 2-1. L—Stein, 5-8. Sv—Service (4). HRs—Oakland, Henderson (14), Giambi (25). Kansas City, J.King (24). Mi.Sweeney (8).

Chicago 050 010 600 302—17 19 3
Detroit 013 013 202 301—16 22 2
(12 innings) Snyder, C.Castillo (6), Navarro (6), Bradford (9), B.Ward (9), Simas (9), Howry (10), Eyre (11) and Machado, Krauter (7), Johnson (10); J.Thompson, Sager (5), F.Castillo (6), M.Anderson (7), Santana (7), Crow (7), Brocail (8), Runyan (10), Bochtler (10), Brunson (12) and Beko, Siddall (12). W—Eyre, 3-7. L—Bochtler, 0-2. HRs—Chicago, Durham (18), C.Wilson 2 (3). Detroit, Encarnacion (5), Higginson (23), Randa (8).



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49ers rout Redskins 45-10

LANDOVER, Maryland (AP) – Steve Young threw three touchdowns passes to three receivers and ran for another score Monday night, leading the the San Francisco 49ers to a 45-10 rout over the Washington Redskins.

It was the worst home loss for the Redskins since a 45-0 defeat to Philadelphia in 1948 and the worst loss in coach Norv Turner's five-year tenure.

The Redskins (0-2) have given up 76 points in two games.

Picking apart one of the best secondaries in the league, Young completed 21 of 32 passes for 303 yards, giving him six TD passes and 666 yards after two weeks – his best two-game start ever. The 49ers (2-0), who have scored 74 points in the two games, might have run up more had they not committed nine penalties, including a couple of false starts that killed an early drive.

On three consecutive drives in the first half, Young hit Terrell Owens over the middle for a 20-yard score, Irv Smith on the sideline for a 16-yard strike – set up by a 57-yard completion to Jerry Rice – and rank in behind center Chris Dalman on a 3-yard score.

In the second half, Young connected with Marc Edwards for a 2-yard TD. Garrison Hearst, who had 138 yards on 22 carries for his second consecutive 100-yard game, added a 5-yard TD run in the fourth quarter. Chuck Levy also weaved 21 yards for a score.

San Francisco	7	14	7	17—45
Washington	7	3	0	0—10

First Quarter: Was—Shepherd 9 pass from T.Green (Blanton kick), 4:52. SF—Owens 20 pass from S.Young (Richey kick), :03. Second Quarter: SF—S.Young 3 run (Richey kick), 10:10. Was—FG Blanton 37, 5:37. SF—LSmith 16 pass from S.Young (Richey kick), 3:37. Third Quarter: SF—Edwards 2 pass from S.Young (Richey kick), 6:13. Fourth Quarter: SF—Hearst 5 run (Richey kick), 14:19. SF—FG Richey 22, 11:55. SF—Levy 21 run (Richey kick). A—51,454—78,788.

Top 25 college football teams

The Top Twenty Five teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Sept. 12, total points based on 25 points for a first place vote through one point for a 25th place vote and ranking in previous poll:

	Record	Pts	Pv
1. Ohio St. (57)	2-0	1,733	1
2. Florida (9)	2-0	1,625	3
3. Nebraska (1)	3-0	1,582	4
4. UCLA (1)	1-0	1,527	6
5. Kansas St. (2)	2-0	1,466	5
6. Tennessee	1-0	1,363	8
7. LSU	1-0	1,348	7
8. Penn St.	2-0	1,283	9
9. Washington	1-0	1,157	11
10. Virginia	2-0	1,074	12
11. Florida St.	1-1	987	2
12. Georgia	2-0	919	15
13. Syracuse	1-1	874	19
14. Wisconsin	2-0	771	17
15. Colorado	2-0	722	18
16. Arizona	2-0	608	21
17. Texas A&M	1-1	562	18
18. Southern Cal	2-0	520	22
19. West Virginia	0-1	456	20
20. N. Carolina St.	2-0	434	–
21. Missouri	2-0	330	25
22. Oregon	2-0	245	24
23. Notre Dame	1-1	199	10
24. Alabama	2-0	183	–
25. Mississippi St.	2-0	110	–

Others receiving votes: Virginia Tech 94, Kentucky 89, Arizona St. 68, Colorado St. 60, Air Force 53, Miami 51, Michigan 49, Brigham Young 48, North Carolina 37, Boston College 25, Utah 22, Tulane 20, Miami, Ohio, Georgia Tech 14, Texas 14, Auburn 13, Cent. Florida, Michigan St. 8, Texas Tech 4, Purdue 3, Arkansas 2, Washington St. 1.

صكنا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

French maestro Frederic Chaslin leads the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra-IBA in its season opener performing Bartok's one-act, two-character, haunting opera *Duke Bluebeard's Castle* with Hungarian soprano Katalin Szendrenyi and Romanian bass Csaba Airizer. French pianist Brigitte Engerer plays Mozart's K.488 piano concerto. Tonight and tomorrow at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem at 8:30 p.m. with a concert preview at 7:30 p.m.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★ **TWILIGHT** – In Robert Benton's moody, muted and intriguing thriller, Paul Newman plays Harry Ross, a former private eye who has drunk himself out of a family and career. Sober now but slowed by age, Harry seems too tired of his own weaknesses, and others', to actively seek out work, though he does manage in the course of the picture to get tangled in one last, *pulpish plot*. At the same time that Benton and co-writer Richard Russo harness a battery of standard noir devices (the tough-guy voiceover, the fixation on death, the Los Angeles setting, the nostalgia for all that's lost, etc.), they also slyly manage to figure into the familiar equation an awareness of the genre's moribund nature. It's almost as if they *know* that these formulas have run themselves into the ground and have resolved to take them out for one last melancholy spin, for old times' sake. With Susan Sarandon, Gene Hackman, Stockard Channing and James Garner. (Children under 17 not admitted without an adult.)



French pianist Brigitte Engerer plays Mozart in Jerusalem.

RADIO

■ VOICE OF MUSIC

6:05 Bach: Suite no 1 for solo Cello (Fournier); Mozart: Piano Concerto no 20 K466 (Pletnev / German Phil CO)
7:07 Buxtehude: Passacaglia in D minor (Rioloff, organ); Haydn: Piano Sonata in E flat major (Kissin); Bach: Toccata and Fugue in D minor (Rioloff); Bach: Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor (Rioloff)
8:05 Rachmaninoff: Piano Concerto no 3 (Kissin / Boston SO / Ozawa); Poulenc: Intermezzo no 2 / Novelette no 1 (Horowitz, piano)
9:05 Brahms: Sonata in E flat for Clarinet and Piano op 120/2 (De Peyer / Barenboim); Tchaikovsky: String Quartet no 1 op 11 (Duke Quartet); Mendelssohn: Concerto for 2 Pianos and Orchestra; Haydn: Symphony no 88 (Vienna PO / Bernstein); Brahms: Symphony *no 2 op 73*; *Dvorák: Carnival* (concert overture) op 92
12:00 Light Classical – Gounod, Khachaturian, Tchaikovsky, J.Strauss II and Offenbach
13:00 Artist of the Week – Peter Wispelwey, cello. Vivaldi: Concerto in B minor for Piccolo, Cello and Orchestra (Florilegium Ens); Sculthorpe: Requiem for solo Cello
14:05 *Kaya* - poems, prayers and folk-songs of the Bene Israel of Bombay
16:00 Yehuda Engel: Psalm of David (Etzion-Zak / JSO / Sheriff); Prokofiev: Winter Bonfire (Scottish CO / Serebrier); Beethoven: Septet op 20 (members of Berlin Octet); Bernstein: Symphony no 3 "Kaddish" (Caballé / Wager / Vienna Boy's Choir / IPO / Bernstein)
18:00 Berwald: Romance for Piano-Forte and Violin (*Tomaz / Blankestijn*); Zinding: Melody (Jerome Leventhal, piano); Duparc: L'invitation au voyage (Vaughn / Vinlot); Suk: Elegy for Piano Trio (Suk Trio); Fauré: "Dolly" Suite op 56 (Claire and Antoinette Kahn, pianos); Schubert: Theme and Variations for Flute and Piano (Arnheim / Gortler); Dvorák: Piano Trio no 4 "Dumky" (Suk Trio); Mendelssohn: String Quartet no 2 op13 (Couli Quartet)
20:05 *The Jerusalem* Symphony / Frédéric Chazlin, conductor. Offenbach: La Vie parisienne; Bartok: Duke Bluebeard's Castle
23:00 Golden Generation – Alfred Deller, countertenor. *Works by Dowland, Campion*, Rosseter, Purcell and Handel (recordings from 1949, 1950-1, 1953)

■ RADIOWEST

CNN news on the hour followed by RadioWEST local news
6:00 Morning Drive (until 9:00) – Music with Dawid Starck
7:30 English Newspaper Headlines
7:45 Sports Update with Danny Gewirtz
8:08 Lion's Trust Financial Update
9:00 Morning Brunch (until 12:00) – Music with Sharon Wagner
10:00 Financial Forum with Mike Humphries
12:00 Head to Head – political forum with Charlie Levine and Dr. Tom *Gumpel*
13:00 Windows on the World
13:30 Pick of the Hits with Donna Abraham
15:00 Music with Aaron Katsman
17:00 Afternoon Drive (until 19:00) – *with Michael Reinis*
17:45 Sports Update with Danny Gewirtz
19:00 Lonely Soul in Town with David Bender
20:45 Jerusalem Post Sports – tomorrow's sports tonight – with *Joe Hoffman and Ori Lewis*
21:00 Gesher presents "The Great Divide" – Panel Discussion
22:00 WestRock with David Suskauer
1:00 Late Night Music

■ BBC WORLD SERVICE

5:00 News
5:05 World Business Report
5:15 Sports Roundup
5:30 Insight
5:45 Off the Shelf: Human Croquet, part 6
6:00 The World Today
6:30 Outlook
6:55 Take Five
7:00 The World Today
7:30 One Planet
8:00 News
8:15 Insight
8:30 Sports International
9:00 News
9:15 Off the Shelf: Human Croquet, part 6
9:30 Meridian Live
10:00 News
10:10 Pause For Thought
10:15 Westway
10:30 Everywoman
11:00 News
11:05 World Business Report
11:15 The Farming World
11:30 Britain Now (BBC English)
11:45 Sports Roundup
12:00 Newsdesk
12:30 *One Planet*
13:00 Newsdesk
13:30 Sports International
14:00 News
14:05 World Business Report
14:15 Britain Today
14:30 *Heads And Tails*
14:45 Sports Roundup
15:00 Newshour
16:00 News
16:05 Outlook
16:30 Megamix
17:00 News
17:05 Sports Roundup
17:15 Performance
17:30 Everywoman
18:00 Europe Today
18:30 World Business Report
18:45 Britain Today
19:00 News
19:15 Insight
19:30 F.O.O.C.
19:45 Sports Roundup
20:00 Newsdesk
20:30 The Works
21:29 News Summary
21:01 Outlook
21:30 Pause For Thought
21:30 Multitrack: X-Press
22:00 Newshour
23:00 News

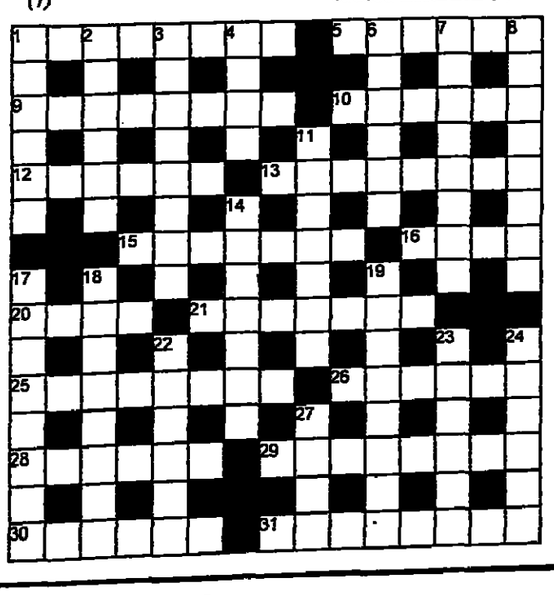
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Yet *part's possibly* material (8)
5 Sets forth conditions (6)
9 Gather around when a number are behaving badly (8)
10 T-junction snarl-up (6)
12 Keep quiet about warm covering (6)
13 One who hates having to check in beasts (8)
15 A meet—it's arranged for five o'clock (3-4)
16 Intend to be penny-pinching (4)
20 Some verse provided by poet (4)
21 Constant rummaging about hides ill-humour (7)
25 Country lovers (8)
26 Air pressure (6)
28 Returns the gold in a daze (6)
29 Flora's plain words about lip (8)
30 Saying when? (6)
31 The most classy mattress made (8)

DOWN

1 How to beat the endless spottiness! (6)
2 RAF officers ready for a hot drink (6)
3 He isn't as bad as songs made out (8)
4 A bakery's turnover? (4)
6 Used a comb and so caused irritation (6)
7 Got there perhaps, though not alone (8)
8 Fleecing a woman over a piece of jewellery (8)
11 Sociable creature living in high-rise accommodation (7)
14 Furtiveness taking the last pie (7)
17 Produced original work when undisturbed (8)
18 Suspect damp with decay (8)
19 Some curt perverse client (8)
22 Deny creating uproar about broadcast (6)
23 Notorious criminal—top one (6)
24 Popular school crawler (6)
27 Where people sell up to get a vehicle (4)



SOLUTIONS

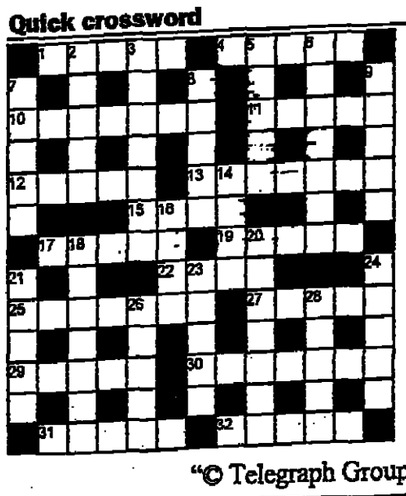


Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Loafer, 4 Bread, 8 Rifle, 9 Rescind, 10 Alights, 11 Peel, 12 Saw, 14 Bean, 15 Iota, 18 Tea, 21 Pate, 23 Seducer, 25 Genuine, 26 Icing, 27 Thane, 28 Meagre.

DOWN: 1 Lariat, 2 Affaire, 3 Elephant, 4 Bask, 5 Exile, 6 Diddle, 7 Cress, 13 Windpipe, 16 Ticking, 17 Spigot, 19 Asked, 20 Prague, 22 Tonga, 24 Pike.

Quick crossword



ACROSS

1 Trail (5)
4 Glowed (5)
10 Display case (7)
11 Swell (5)
12 Ecclesiastical headwear (5)
13 Facility (7)
15 Competent (4)
17 Heading (5)
19 Greek letter (5)
22 Rational (4)
25 Lie (7)
27 Arrangement (5)
29 Reasoning (5)
30 Determined (7)
31 Avarice (5)
32 Snake (5)

DOWN

2 Automaton (5)
3 Hide (7)
5 Hurry (5)
6 East Anglian city (7)
7 Rascal (5)
8 Rob (5)
9 African country (5)
14 Average (4)
16 Most excellent (4)
18 Number (7)
20 Spotted animal (7)
21 Tugs (5)
23 In front (5)
24 Animal (5)
26 Male relative (5)
28 Festoon (5)

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TV

■ CHANNEL 1 (11)

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

■ EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Australian Wild
8:30 Family Album
9:00 Guitar for Beginners
9:30 Communications
10:00 Programs for the very young
11:00 Mathematics
12:20 Science and Nature
13:30 Hanni's Room
14:30 Basketball Super League

■ CHANNEL 1 (11)

16:30 Casper
16:59 A New Evening
17:34 The Biz
18:00 Foxy Tales
18:10 Dudu's Adventures
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Family Matters
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS
19:10 Oh, Dr. Beeching!
20:00 News
20:10 Talk of the Day
20:25 Are You Being Served?
21:00 News
21:30 The Entertainment Biz – Celebrity
22:20 Brooklyn South
23:05 Made In Israel
23:30 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

■ CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's programs
5:55 On the Edge of the Shelf
6:00 Rupert Bear
6:30 Choco with Tel-Ad
6:43 Coffee with Tel-Ad
9:00 The Third Time
9:55 Thirty Something
10:50 Promised Land
11:40 Empty Nest
12:05 Brotherly Love
12:30 Amazing Stories
13:00 Spellbinder
13:30 New Vision
14:00 Home and Away
14:30 Tick Tack
15:00 Disney Time
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful – Ridge tells Hunter that he is being framed for the shooting
16:50 Different Driving
17:00 Five with Rafi Reshef
17:30 Sport TV
20:00 News
18:00 Lingo
18:30 Ramat Aviv Gimmel
20:00 News
20:30 Shining
22:00 Sussita in Space
22:45 Species (1995) – a DNA experiment to produce a perfect being gets out of hand when the beautiful creation decides to lead an independent life. With Ben Kingsley, Michael Madsen and Forest Whitaker
00:00 News flash
00:05 Species – contd.
1:05 M*A*S*H
1:50 The Red Sea Jazz Festival
3:20 Song for the Day

■ JORDAN TV (31) (unconfirmed)

14:00 Holy Koran
14:10 Mr. Bogus
14:30 Oliver Twist
15:00 Musical Magazine
16:00 Oshoa
17:00 Acapulco Bay
18:00 Le Journal
18:15 French Show
18:30 News Headlines
18:35 Partners
19:00 Our Special Reporter
19:30 Faces and Places
20:00 Local Magazine
20:15 Kung Fu
21:00 *News in English*
21:30 Miniseries

■ MIDDLE EAST TV (24/27)

14:00 Richard Scarry
14:30 Popeye
15:00 Wishbone
15:30 Jack Hanna
16:00 CNN News
16:30 Arabic News
17:00 Candid Camera
18:00 Homicide
19:00 *Sirenes*
20:00 Larry King
21:00 Dramatic Rescues
22:00 700 Club
22:30 Happy House

CABLE

■ ITV 3 (33)

16:00 Animation
16:45 Amores
17:30 Day to day
18:00 Animation
18:15 No Dear Husband
19:00 Arabic News
19:30 Telekessel
20:00 Medicine – Pathology
20:30 News Room
21:00 News
21:30 Cruises to a World of Discovery
22:30 Scent of Mint

■ ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Mathica's Mathop
15:45 Mathematics
16:00 Fairy Tales
17:00 Arabic Stories
18:00 Pique Nique
18:30 A Matter of Taste
19:00 Simply Style
19:25 *Little Big Country*
19:30 Vis-a-Vis
20:00 New Evening
20:30 Golden-age magazine
20:55 Little Big Country
21:00 Destinations
22:00 *In the Heat of the* Night
22:45 Long Search

■ CHANNEL 3

7:00 Good Evening with *Guy Pines*
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas (rpt)
8:00 Celeste
9:00 One Life to Live (rpt)
9:45 The Young and the *Restless* (rpt)
10:30 Days of Our Lives (rpt)
11:15 Angels Don't Cry (rpt)
12:00 Ricki Lake
12:45 Hart to Hart
13:30 Wings
14:00 Bewitched
14:25 I Dream of Jeannie
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:35 Judge Judy
16:00 Angels Don't Cry
16:45 One Life to Live
17:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas
18:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines
18:30 Local Broadcast
19:00 The Young and the *Restless*
19:40 Melrose Place
20:25 La Femme Nikita
21:10 Mad About You
21:35 Veronica's Closet
22:00 Yair Lapid Live at 10
22:30 Seinfeld (rpt)
23:00 Ricki Lake (rpt)
23:45 Sentinel
00:30 Renegade
1:20 The New Untouchables

■ MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 The Milky Way (1939) – comedy about a milkman who is recruited to be prize fighter after inadvertently knocking out the *reigning middleweight* champion. With Harold Lloyd, Adolphe Menjou and Helen Mack
13:05 The Master Race (1944) – war drama about the final days of the Nazi regime. One general refuses to accept defeat and goes into hiding in a Belgian village. With George Coulouris, Stanley Ridges and Lloyd Bridges
15:20 Dragonworld (1997) – an orphaned boy moves to Scotland to live with his grandparents and wishes for himself a dragon friend who then grows up with him. When they grow up they together fight attempts to exploit them. With Courtland Mead, Janey Hertrey and Stuart Campbell
16:55 Changing Habits (1996) – the story of a young artist who has become jaded following her mother's suicide and her difficult relations with her father. With Moira Kelly, Christopher Lloyd and Teri Garr
18:25 Special Report on *Gingerbread* by Robert Altman
18:45 Her Desperate Choice (1996) – a divorced mother decides to flee with her daughter after the courts order her to transfer custody to the girl's abusive father. With Nigel Bennett and Faith Ford
20:20 Santa with Muscles (1996) – action comedy. A muscular stranger claiming to be Santa Claus rids a small town of crime and strife. With Hulk Hogan
22:00 Delta Force 2 *(1990)* – Chuck Norris action thriller. This time he leads his special unit to Central America in a raid against an elusive drug lord
23:50 Omega Doom *(1997)* – *in a future* world where the human race has been wiped out, two groups of androids and cyborgs battle for supremacy. With Rutger Hauer
1:15 No Strings Attached (1998) – erotic thriller. A journalist researching sexual fantasies finds himself involved with a mysterious beauty
2:50 Motorcycle Gang (1994, 80 mins.) – a family traveling across the Southwest in the Fifties runs into a motorcycle gang who proceed to kidnap the daughter. With Jake Busey, Gerald McRaney and John Cassini

■ CHILDREN (5)

6:30 Cartoons
9:00 Oaky Daky
9:15 Herluffs
9:35 Oliver Twist
10:05 The Smurfs
10:35 Ninja Turtles
11:00 Batman and Robin
11:25 Twins of Destiny
11:50 Ned's Newt
12:20 Different World
12:45 Moesha
13:30 Barney

PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	6	8
19:30			Melrose Place		Family Matters	Coltrane's Trains and Autos
20:00	News	News			Married with Children	Future Quest
20:30	Talk of the Day	Shining	La Femme Nikita	Santa with Muscles	Fresh Prince of Bel Air	Mysteries
21:00	Are You Being Served?		Mad About You		Full House	Heart of Tibet
21:30	News		Veronica's Closet		Beverly Hills 90210	
22:00	The Entertainment Biz	Sussita in Space	Yair Lapid Live at 10	Delta Force 2	Gentleman Jim	Trial by Television
22:30	Brooklyn South	Species	Seinfeld			Life in the Wild
23:00	Made in Israel		Ricki Lake			

14:00 Arthur
14:30 The Smurfs
15:00 Ninja Turtles
15:30 Batman and Robin
15:55 Twins of Destiny
16:20 Space Gools
16:50 Family Matters
17:20 Helen and the Boys
17:45 Chiquititas
18:30 Moesha
19:00 Step By Step
19:30 Family Matters
19:55 Married with Children
20:20 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
20:45 Full House
21:10 Beverly Hills 90210

■ SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 Gentleman Jim (1942) – biopic of Jim Corbett, a polished banker who became one of the early champion boxers. With Errol Flynn, Ward Bond, Alexis Smith and Jack Carson
23:45 Procedure 769 (1995, 79 mins.) – documentary on the execution of Robert Elton Harris, the first man to be sent to the gas chamber in California in 25 years

■ CHANNEL 8

6:00 Open University (rpts from Tuesday at 23:25)
8:00 Endangered Series: Mizea (rpt)
8:35 Beyond 2000 (rpt)
9:00 Understanding Competition (rpt)
10:00 Janacek: Cunning Little Vixen – opera
11:40 Richard Strauss's Four Lieder – Kiri Te Kanawa sings conducted by Georg Solti
12:35 Life in the Wild (rpt)
13:00 Coltrane's Trains and Autos, part 2
13:30 Future Quest: Doomsday (rpt)
14:05 Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (rpt)
14:30 Bertrand Russell (rpt)
15:35 Seven Sins: Lust (rpt)
16:05 The Man Who Colors Stars – a look at the world's foremost astronomy photographer *and some of his trade* secrets
17:00 Open University: Oil
18:00 Open University: Everybody's Business
18:30 Open University: Nutrition Pathways
19:05 Life in the Wild, part 9
19:30 Coltrane's Trains and Autos, part 3
20:00 Future Quest: Designer Genes
20:30 Mysteries, Magic and Miracles
21:00 Heart of Tibet – intimate portrait of the Dalai Lama, exiled leader of Tibet who tries to achieve his nation's independence through peaceful means
22:00 Trial by Television
22:45 Life in the Wild, part 9
23:10 Coltrane's Trains and Autos (see 19:30)
23:35 Open University: *Mary Pickford*
00:35 Open University: Government by Consent
1:05 Open University: The Hermitage

■ STAR WORLD (18/15)

6:00 Bergerac
7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
8:00 Santa Barbara
9:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
9:30 Snowy River: The McGregor Saga
10:30 Nanny and the Professor
11:00 Saber Rider and the Star Sheriffs
11:30 Small Wonder
12:00 Code 3
12:30 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures
13:00 The Simpsons
13:30 The Wonder Years
14:00 Baywatch Nights
15:00 The Knock
16:00 NYPD Blue
17:00 Santa Barbara
18:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
18:30 The Simpsons
19:00 Baywatch Nights
20:00 The Knock
21:00 NYPD Blue
22:00 To Serve Them All My Days
23:00 Bergerac
00:00 Aerobics Oz Style
00:30 Terry Toons
1:00 Code 3
1:30 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventure
2:00 Hawaii Cooks
2:30 Aerobics Oz Style

■ BBC WORLD (13/14)

News on the hour
6:30 Reporters (rpt)
7:30 The Travel Show (rpt)
8:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
9:30 Earth Report: Argentina (rpt)
10:30 Reporters (rpt)
11:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
12:30 The Air Show (rpt)
13:00 The World Today
14:30 Africa's Big Game, part 5
15:00 World News and Business Report
15:30 The World Today
16:30 Jeremy Clarkson's Extreme Flying Machines
17:30 Hard Talk
18:30 Quiz Show (rpt)
19:00 The World Today
20:30 Hard Talk (rpt)
21:30 Decisive Weapons: Mustang P51
22:00 World News and Business Report
22:30 Top Gear Waterworld
23:10 Europe Direct
00:30 World Business Report
00:45 Asia Today (rpt)
1:05 USA Direct
1:30 Reporters (rpt)
2:30 The Travel Show (rpt)

■ CNN INTERNATIONAL (12)

News throughout the day
8:00 CNN This Morning
6:30 Insight
7:00 CNN This Morning
7:30 Moneyline (rpt)
8:00 CNN This Morning
8:30 World Sports
9:00 CNN This Morning
9:30 Showbiz Today
10:00 Larry King (rpt)
11:30 World Sport
12:30 American Edition
12:45 World Report: As They See It
13:30 Business Unusual
14:15 News and Business Asia
15:30 CNN Newsroom
16:30 World Sport
17:30 Style! with Elsa Klensch
18:00 Larry King Live (rpt)
19:45 American Edition
20:30 World Business Today
21:30 Q&A with Riz Khan
22:00 News Europe
22:30 Insight
23:00 World Business Today
23:30 World Sport
00:00 World View
00:30 Moneyline
1:30 Showbiz Today
2:15 Asian Edition
2:30 Q&A (rpt)

■ SKY NEWS (14/13)

News on the hour
6:30 ABC World News
7:00 Sunrise
11:30 ABC Nightline
12:30 Sky World News
15:30 On the Line
17:30 Sky World News
18:00 Live at Five
20:30 Sportline
21:30 Business Report
22:30 Sky World News
23:00 Prime Time
1:30 CBS Evening News
2:30 ABC World News

■ CHANNEL 5 (05)

6:00 Bodies in Motion
15:30 Tennis
16:00 Bodies in Motion
16:30 French League Soccer
18:00 Motorsports
18:30 English Soccer
19:30 Sports News
20:00 European Champions League Soccer
23:30 Tennis
00:00 French League Soccer

■ EUROSPORT (15/16)

8:30 Soccer
10:00 Cycling
11:00 Xtrem Sports
12:00 Motocross
12:30 Water Skiing
13:00 Sailing
13:30 Soccer (rpt)
15:00 Live Cycling – Tour of Spain
17:00 Motorsports
18:30 Soccer (rpt)
20:00 Aerobics
21:00 Dancing
23:00 Fitness
00:00 Motorsports

MOVIES

JERUSALEM
CINEMATHEQUE *Boogie Nights 5* • Great Expectations 7:45 • Short Israeli Films Program 9 • Inquietitude 9:45 **G.G. GIL** Jerusalem Mall (Malha) ☎ 6788448 Gingerbread 4:45, 7:30, 10 • Paulie ∞Superboy 4:45 • Twilight ∞The Big Lebowski∞Species II 4:45, 7:15, 10 • City of Angels ∞*The Avengers*∞*Red Corner* 7:15, 10 • Lethal Weapon 4:30, 7:15, 10
JERUSALEM THEATER The Spanish Prisoner 7, 9:30 • The King of Masks 7, 9:30 **RAV CHEN 1-7** ☎ 6792799 Credit Card Reservations ☎ 6794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Ha'oman St., Talpiot *Mafia! Fri. 10, 12:15 a.m.; 5, 7:30, 9:45* • *Il Ciclone*∞6 Days 7 Nights 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Armageddon 4, 7, 9:45 • Titanic 5, 8:45 • The Horse Whisperer 9:45 • Godzilla4:30, 7, 9:45 • Parent Trap 4:45, 7:15
MEVASSERET ZION G.G. GIL ☎ 5700868 Armageddon 4:15, 7, 10 • The Horse Whisperer 4:15, 7, 10 **SMADAR** ☎ 5618168 A Price Above Rubies 5, 7:30, 10
TEL AVIV
DIZENGOFF On connait la chanson∞Spanish Prisoner 11 a.m., 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10 • The Real Blonde 11 a.m., 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10 **GAT** ☎6967888 The Horse Whisperer 6:30, 9:45
GLOBUS ☎6081130/1 Gingerbread ∞Twilight 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • Species II 7:30, 10 • The Borrowers ∞The Magic Sword 11:30 a.m., 2 • City of Angels 5, 7:30, 10 • Grease∞Paulie 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30 • Superboy 11:30 a.m., 2, 5 • The Big Lebowski 11:30 a.m., 2, 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Lethal Weapon IV 4:45, 7:15, 10 **G.G. HOD 1–4** ☎ 5226226 Hod Passage, 101 Dizengoff St. Lethal Weapon IV 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Avengers∞Species II 5, 7:30, 10 • City of Angels 5, 7:30 **LEV** ☎5288288 A Price Above Rubles 11 a.m., 1:45, 5, 7:30, 10 • He Got Game 11 a.m., 1:45, 7:15, 10 • Good Will Hunting 11 a.m., 1:45, 7, 9:45 • Sweet Hereafter 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10 • Night Train 4:30 **LEV AVIV** ☎6417148 The Polish Bride 5, 7:30, 10 • He Got Game 7:15, 10 • Kundun 7:15 • Sweet Hereafter 10 • Brassed Off 5, 10 • Nights *of Cabiria*∞*Carla's Song* 5, 7:30, 10 • Welcome to the Doll's House 5 **LIMOR** ☎6968084 Shall We Dance 6, 9:45 • Empire of the Senses 8 **MAGNIFICENT SIX** ☎6886665 The Opium War∞Operation Delta Force 2 12 noon, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 • Looking for Lola 12 noon, 4, 10 • Sinbad 12 noon, 2, 4, 6 • Azit 12 noon, 4 • Hard Men 8, 10 • Man Always Lie 12 noon, 2, 6, 8 • Funny Games 8, 10 • Romeo and Juliet 8 • Great Troubles 2, 6 • Toxic Avenger 12 noon, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 **G.G. PE'ER** ☎5442141 High Art 7:30, 10 • *The Avengers* 7:30 • Paulie *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5 • The Big Lebowski 4:45, 7:30, 10 • Gingerbread ∞Twilight 5, 7:30, 10 • Superboy 5 **RAV-CHEN** ☎ 5282288 Dizengoff Circle 6 Days 7 Nights 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Mafia! 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Armageddon 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:45 • Mulan *(English dialogue)* 7:30, 9:45• Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 2:30, 5 • Godzilla 1:45, 4:15, 7:15, 9:45 • Wild Things 9:45 • Big Hit Fri. 10, 12:15 a.m. • Dr. Dolittle 2:30, 5, 7:30 **RAV-OR 1-5** ☎ 5102674 Opera House Jackie Brown 4:15, 7, 9:45 • Titanic 5:15, 9 • *As Good As It Gets 4:30*, 7:15, 9:45 • Il Ciclone∞The Leading Man 5, 7:30, 9:45 **TEL AVIV**
MUSEUM The Hanging Garden 5, 8, 10
HAIFA
CINEMA CAFÉ AMAMI ☎8325755 On connait la chanson 7:15, 9:30 • Live Flesh 7:15, 9:30 **CINEMATHEQUE** The Merry Widow 7 • To Be Or Not To Be 9:30 **MORIAH** ☎8242477 Gadjo Dilo 7:30, 9:30 **ORI** ☎8500056 Gingerbread 4:45, 7:30, 10 • Species II∞The Avengers 7:15, 10 • Grease 4:45 • The Big Lebowski 7:15, 10 • *City of Angels* 7:15, 10 • Lethal Weapon IV 4:30, 7:15, 10 • Twilight 4:45, 7:15 10 • Paulie∞*The Borrowers*∞Superboy 4:45 **PANORAMA** ☎8382020 Lethal Weapon IV 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Real Blonde 7:15, 9:30 • King of Masks 4:30, 7:15, 9:30 • Paulie 4:30 **RAV-CHEN** ☎8500055 As Good As It Gets 4:15, 7, 9:30 • Armageddon 4, 6:45, 9:30 • Wild Things 4:45, 7, 9:30 • 6 Days 7 Nights 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Mafia! 5, 7:15, 9:30 **RAV-GAT 1-2** ☎ 8874311 Godzilla 4, 6:45, 9:30 • Titanic 4:45, 8:30 **RAV-MOR 1-7** ☎ 8416898 6 Days 7 Nights∞Wild Things 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Mulan *(English dialogue)* 7:15, 9:30 • Armageddon 4, 6:45, 9:30 • The Horse Whisperer 9:30 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5 • Mafia! 5, 7:15, 9:30 • Dr. Dolittle 5, 7:15 • Godzilla 4:15, 7, 9:30 **RAV-OR 1-3** ☎ 8246553 The Horse Whisperer 6:15, 9:30 • Il Ciclone 7:15, 9:30 • Dr. Dolittle∞Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5 A Price Above Rubles 7, 9:30
AFULA
RAV CHEN *Mafia!*∞6 Days 7 Nights 7:15, 9:30 • Armageddon 6:45, 9:45
ARAD
STAR ☎9950904 Species II 7:15, 9:30 • Dr. Dolittle∞Lethal Weapon IV 7:15, 9:30
ASHDOD
G.G. GIL ☎ 8647202 City of Angels ∞Species II 7:30, 10 • Lethal Weapon IV 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Paulie∞Superboy 5 • Species II∞Austin Powers 5, 7:30, 10 • Amistad 6:45, 9:45 **ORI** ☎8568073 Conspiracy Theory 4:45, 7:15, 10 • Fateful Decision∞Grease 5, 7:30, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎8661120 6 Days 7 Nights∞Mafia! 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Horse Whisperer 9:45 • Armageddon 4, 7, 9:45 • Wild Things 7:30, 9:45 • Dr. Dolittle 5, 7:30 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5 • Godzilla 4:30, 7, 9:45
ASHKELON
G.G. GIL ☎ 6729977 Gingerbread ∞Species II 5, 7:30, 10 • The Spanish Prisoner∞The Avengers 7:30, 10 • Superboy ∞Paulie 5 • Lethal Weapon IV 4:45, 7:15, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎6711221 6 Days 7 Nights∞Mafia! 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5 • Armageddon 7, 9:45 • Godzilla 4:30, 7, 9:45 • Wild Things 9:45 • Dr. Dolittle 5, 7:30
BAT YAM
RAV CHEN ☎ 5531077 6 Days 7 Nights∞Wild Things 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Species II 7:30, 9:45 • Mafia! 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Armageddon 4:15, 7, 9:45 • Lethal Weapon IV 4:45, 7:15., 9:45 • Godzilla *4:15, 7, 9:45* • *Dr. Dolittle 5*
BEERSHEVA
G.G. ORI ☎6103111 Gingerbread ∞Twilight 5, 7:30, 10 • Lethal Weapon IV 7:15, 10 • The Big Lebowski 4:45, 7:15, 10 **MAGNIFICENT SIX** Men Always Lie∞Big Brother 4, 8 • Opium Wars ∞Looking for Lola 6, 10 • Sinbad 4, 6 • Scarred City 4, 6, 8, 10 • The Crying Game 8, 10 **RAV-NEGEV 1-4** ☎6235278 6 Days 7 Nights 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Mafia! 5, 7:30, 9:45 • The Horse Whisperer 9:45 • Armageddon 7, 9:45 • Godzilla 4:30, 7 • *Dr. Dolittle 5*
EILAT
EILAT CINEMA 6 Days 7 Nights 7:30, 10 • Armageddon 7, 10 • Wild Things 7:30, 10 **GIL** ☎6340182 Lethal Weapon IV 7:15, 10 • Paulie∞Superboy 5 • City of Angels 7:30, 10 • Gingerbread 5, 7:30, 10
HADERA
LEV ☎6343555 Mafia!∞6 Days 7 Nights 7:30, 10 • Armageddon 7:15, 10 • Mulan∞Godzilla 5 • The Horse Whisperer 7, 10 • Superboy∞Dr. Dolittle 5
HERZLIYA
COLONY ☎8902666 The Horse Whisperer 8, 9:15 • On Connait La Chanson 5, 7:30, 10 **DANIEL** ☎ 9544044 A Price Above Rubies 7:30, 10 **STAR** ☎ 9589068 6 Days 7 Nights 7:30, 10 • Armageddon 7:15 • Paulie ∞Mulan *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5 • Lethal Weapon IV 10 • Dr. Dolittle 5 • Mafia! 7:30, 10
HOD HASHARON
GIL ☎ 7408591 Gingerbread∞6 Days 7 Nights 5, 7:30, 10 • The Parent Trap 4:45 • Pipi Longstocking *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5 • City of Angels∞The Spanish Prisoner 7:30, 10
HOLON
STAR Titanic 9 • Wild Things 10 • Godzilla 7:15, 10 • Dr. Dolittle 7:30 • Gadjo Dilo 7:30, 10
KARMIEL
CINEMA ☎9882521 6 Days 7 Nights ∞Mafia! 7:15, 9:30 • Lethal Weapon IV 7, 9:30
KFAR SAVA
G.G. GIL ☎7677370 Gingerbread 5, 7:30, 10 • Twilight∞6 Days 7 Nights 5, 7:30, 10 • Species II 5, 7:30, 10 • Armageddon 7, 10 • Paulie∞Superboy *(Hebrew dialogue)* 5 • The Big Lebowski ∞Lethal Weapon IV 4:45, 7:15, 10
KIRYAT BIALIK
G.G. GIL Gingerbread ∞Lethal Weapon IV 7, 9:30 • Species II 7, 9:30 • The Big Lebowski 7, 9:30 • The Horse Whisperer 6:45, 9:30 • Armageddon 6:45, 9:30 • Godzilla 7, 9:30 • Twilight 7, 9:30 • Good Will Hunting 7, 9:30 • Red Corner 7, 9:30
KIRYAT SHMONA
G.G. GIL ☎6905080 6 Days 7 Nights∞Species II 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Horse Whisperer 6:30, 9:45
NAHARIYA
HEICHAL HATARBUT ☎9829933 Armageddon 8:30
UPPER NAZARETH
G.G GIL ☎6561332 6 Days 7 Nights∞Species II 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Wild Things∞Mafia! 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Red Corner∞Lethal Weapon IV 4:15, 7, 9:45• Armageddon 4:15, 7, 10
NESS ZIONA
G.G. GIL 1-4 ☎ 9404729 Gingerbread 5, 7:30, 10 • High Art∞Twilight 7:30, 10 • Paulie∞Superboy 5 • The Big Lebowski 4:45, 7:15, 10
NETANYA
G.G. GIL 1-5 ☎ 8628452 Gingerbread 5, 7:30, 10 • Twilight∞Species II 7:30, 10 • Superboy∞Paulie 5 • The Big Lebowski∞Lethal Weapon IV 4:45, 7:15, 10 **RAV CHEN** ☎ 8618570 6 Days 7 Nights 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Mafia! 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Armageddon 7, 9:45 • The Horse Whisperer 9:45 • Godzilla 4:30, 7 • Dr. D

Inside

Braves clinch division Page 18

Farewell to Dickie Bird Page 17

Sports Editors Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

SCOREBOARD

TENNIS – Tim Henman of Britain beat Israel's Nir Welgreen 6-1, 6-4 in the first round of the $500,000 President's Cup tennis tournament in Tashkent yesterday.

BASEBALL – Yesterday's early results: Mariners 12, Twins 7; Royals 6, A's 3.

Betar hopes dashed by Rangers' equalizer

By DEREK FATTAL

Betar Jerusalem's hopes of mastering Glasgow Rangers came to naught last night when the Israeli champions were held to a 1-1 draw at Teddy Stadium in the first leg of their first round UEFA Cup tie before a partisan crowd of 14,000.

Coach Dror Kashtan will be bitterly disappointed after his side controlled most of the game after taking a 16th lead from a Yossi Abuksis penalty, only to be felled by an unstoppable 18-meter drive from the boot of Rangers' substitute Jorg Albertz scored eight minutes from time.

Rangers' precious away goal should provide a comfortable foundation from which to end Betar's continued involvement on the European stage this season when the two sides meet for the return leg at Ibrox Park.

Apart from some electric moments from Russian international Andrei Kanchelskis, this was a dismal performance from the Scottish side whose lack of creativity must have surprised even the most die-hard fans amongst the 500 or so contingent who made the trip from Clydeside.

Abuksis and Istvan Hamar were in mercurial form for the hosts, the former in particular providing the leadership and vision in midfield needed at this level of the game.

From the opening minute the Betaris showed their determination to get forward with Ofer Shitrit forcing the first save of the match from France's third-string goalkeeper Lionel Charbonnier.

A telling ball in the 16th minute took Shitrit into a one-against-one situation with Charbonnier, and although Advocaat registered his concern at the decision after the match, French referee Bernard Soules showed no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Abuksis shrugged off the pressure and coolly guided the ensuing penalty shot into goal.

Rangers' best moments came just after the half hour when a flurry of high corners caused total panic in the Betar defense, and Sergio Dorini was left holding his head in disbelief after an attempt rang off the crossbar in the 34th minute. The hosts soon regained their poise and it was the Glasgow side's turn to fall back in defense as the first half came to a close.

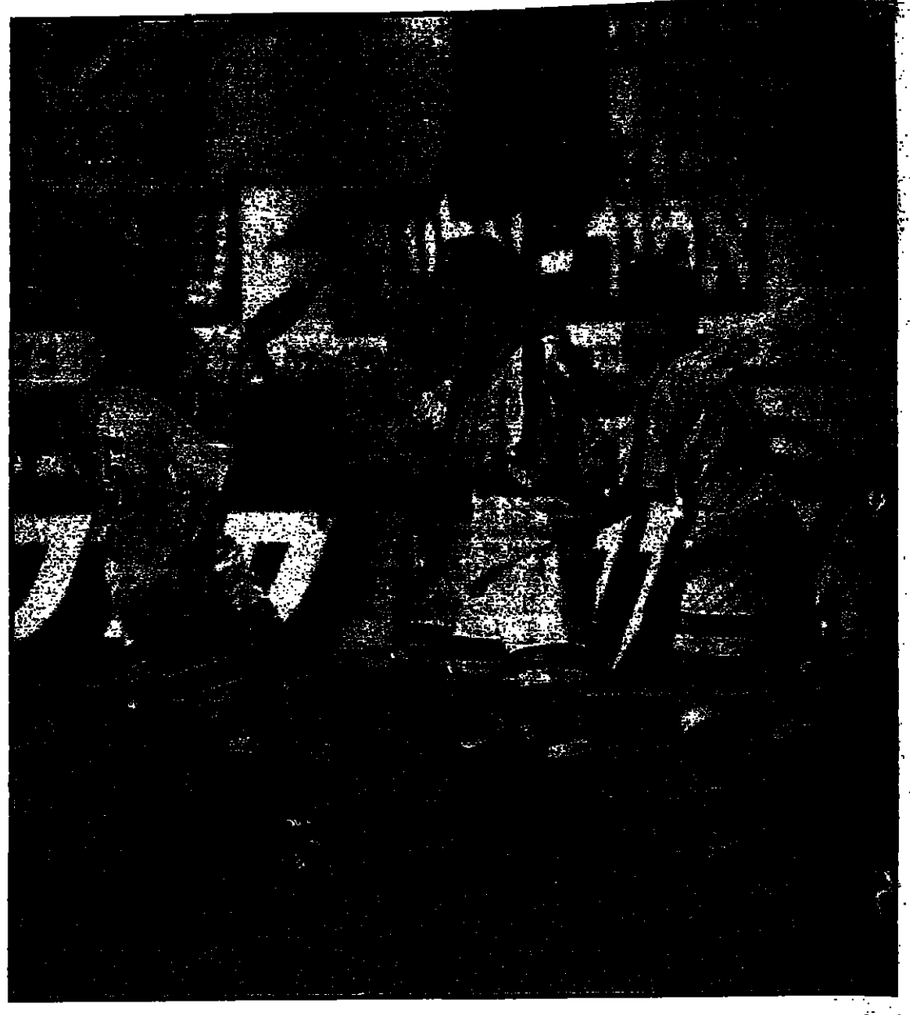
The game's momentum slowed down after the break, with Betar enjoying most of the possession in midfield but sadly unable to create real pressure on Charbonnier's goal. Nevertheless, a golden chance went begging when Nir Reichman and Shitrit carved an opening in the 63rd minute, only for Shitrit to see his final shot blocked by the Frenchman's legs.

At the other end Kanchelskis began a series of teasing runs and crosses that suggested that the Scots might not travel home empty-handed. In the 78th minute a double substitution saw Albertz come into the game. At long last Kanchelskis had someone to supply the ball to. When the goal came four minutes later it proved to be worth the wait. The Russian hurtled forward down the right wing, swerved into the area then angled the ball perfectly to Albertz who provided the most memorable of finishes to send the Scottish fans reeling with joy.

From that point on Betar's hold on the game vanished, and although they came back in the final couple of minutes with two close attempts the chance of securing victory had slipped away.

"This was an excellent result. In the first half we had problems but in the second half we were tighter," Advocaat told reporters at the post-match press conference. "For an away game we can be satisfied. Betar played good football and I knew it would be a difficult game. An away goal is always important and we now have a good chance to go into the second round."

Kashtan meanwhile tried to sound as upbeat as possible. "It's an honor for us to draw against such a rich club. We are not going to give up in the next game," he said.



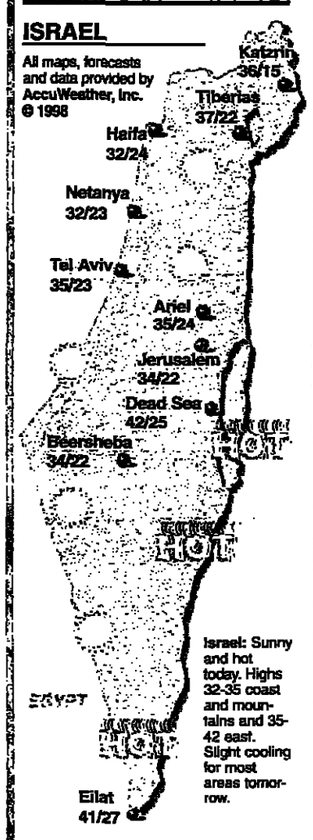
Betar players celebrate after scoring the opening goal at Teddy Stadium last night. (Brian Hendler)

AIR CANADA
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THE WEATHER

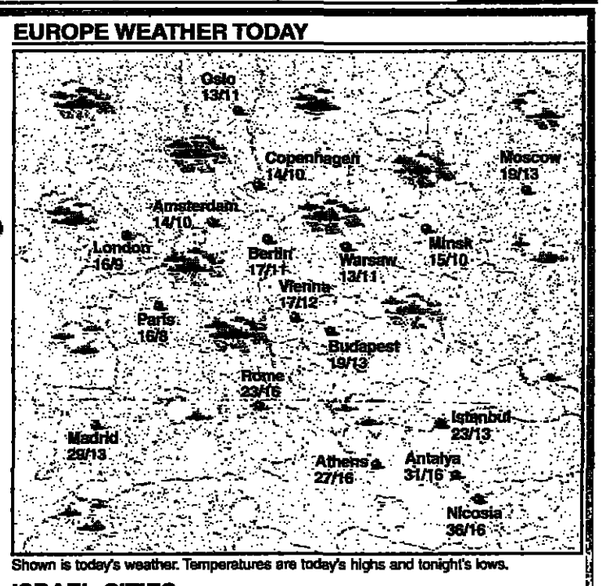
http://www.accuweather.com

ISRAEL



Israel: Sunny and hot today. Highs 32-35 coast and mountains and 35-42 east. Slight cooling for most areas tomorrow.

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today High C/F	Today Low/W C/F	Thursday High C/F	Thursday Low/W C/F	Friday High C/F	Friday Low/W C/F	Saturday High C/F	Saturday Low/W C/F
Ariel	35/95	24/75/s	33/91	22/71/s	33/91	20/68/pc	33/91	22/71/pc
Beersheba	34/93	22/71/s	31/88	20/68/s	31/88	20/68/pc	34/93	20/68/pc
Dead Sea	42/107	25/77/s	40/104	25/77/s	40/104	25/77/pc	42/107	27/80/pc
Eilat	41/106	27/80/s	39/102	27/80/s	37/98	25/77/pc	39/102	27/80/pc
Haifa	32/89	24/75/s	30/86	22/71/s	30/86	22/71/pc	32/89	22/71/pc
Jerusalem	34/93	22/71/s	30/86	19/66/s	32/89	19/66/pc	32/89	19/66/pc
Katzrin	36/97	15/59/s	34/93	13/55/s	34/93	13/55/pc	36/97	15/59/pc
Netanya	32/89	23/73/s	30/86	21/70/s	30/86	21/70/pc	32/89	23/73/pc
Tel Aviv	35/95	23/73/s	32/89	21/70/s	30/86	21/70/pc	32/89	23/73/pc
Tiberias	37/98	22/71/s	35/95	20/68/s	35/95	20/68/pc	35/95	22/71/pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, f-ice.



INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today High C/F	Today Low C/F	Thursday High C/F	Thursday Low C/F	Friday High C/F	Friday Low C/F
Amsterdam	14/57	10/50/r	16/61	9/48/sh	19/66	11/52/s
Beijing	29/84	16/61/s	27/80	17/62/t	27/80	18/64/pc
Berlin	17/62	11/52/sh	14/57	9/48/sh	17/62	10/50/pc
Brussels	16/61	9/48/sh	14/57	8/48/c	19/66	12/53/s
Cairo	37/98	23/73/s	35/95	21/70/s	33/91	19/66/s
Chicago	26/79	15/59/pc	26/79	17/62/sh	27/80	17/62/pc
Frankfurt	17/62	9/48/sh	15/59	7/44/sh	17/62	8/46/pc
Hong Kong	34/93	25/79/pc	32/89	25/77/sh	31/88	27/80/t
Johannesburg	20/68	15/59/sh	23/73	13/55/pc	25/77	11/52/pc
London	16/61	9/48/c	18/64	12/53/pc	22/71	12/53/pc
Los Angeles	26/79	18/64/pc	30/86	17/62/pc	29/84	16/61/pc
Madrid	29/84	13/55/s	31/88	14/57/pc	30/86	16/61/sh
Mexico City	23/73	17/62/sh	19/66	14/57/c	24/75	14/57/pc
Montreal	20/68	9/48/s	21/70	14/57/pc	24/75	14/57/pc
Moscow	19/66	13/55/pc	17/62	11/52/c	19/66	14/57/pc
New York	29/84	19/66/sh	26/79	18/64/pc	28/82	19/66/s
Paris	16/61	8/46/sh	16/61	8/46/c	21/70	11/52/s
Prague	16/61	9/48/r	12/53	6/43/r	15/59	6/43/s
Rio de Janeiro	24/75	19/66/c	26/79	21/70/pc	28/82	21/70/sh
Rome	23/73	16/61/pc	26/79	13/55/s	23/73	14/57/pc
Sydney	17/62	8/46/s	20/68	12/53/s	23/73	15/59/s
Tokyo	25/77	21/70/r	29/84	23/73/s	31/88	27/80/c
Toronto	24/75	10/50/s	25/77	14/57/s	25/79	14/57/pc
Vienna	17/62	12/53/c	16/61	8/46/c	16/61	8/46/pc
Warsaw	13/55	11/52/c	13/55	7/44/r	16/61	7/44/pc
Washington	32/89	19/66/pc	29/84	19/66/sh	28/82	20/68/sh
Zurich	17/62	8/46/sh	13/55	7/44/r	18/64	11/52/pc

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY

Fenerbache upset Parma; Feyenoord win at Stuttgart 3-1

LONDON (AP) – Turkey's Fenerbache – with a hefty financial bonus reportedly on the line – upset AC Parma 1-0 yesterday as this season's UEFA Cup kicked off with 31 first-round, first-leg matches.

The other stunner saw Dutch leaders Feyenoord win at Stuttgart 3-1, a match in which Dutch hooligans clashed with a heavy police presence estimated at 1,000 with 500 more security guards on duty.

In key other games, Red Star Belgrade, Monaco, Liverpool and Fiorentina got off to winning starts.

Romanian striker Viorel Moldovan scored for Fenerbache on a header in the 23rd off a free kick from Bosnian Elvir Balic. The Turkish side failed to increase the margin despite a man advantage for the last 30 minutes when Dino Baggio was sent off – and a two-man edge the last two minutes when Fabio Cannavaro was dispatched.

Fenerbache players reportedly will receive a $18,000 bonus for advancing to the next stage, which means surviving in the second leg in two weeks against Parma, winners of the '93 Cup Winners Cup, '95 UEFA Cup and players last season in the Champions League.

In Stuttgart, Jon Dahl Tomasson notched two first-half goals as Feyenoord Rotterdam shocked Stuttgart 3-1 before 25,000 home fans in Germany.

Jean Paul Van Gastel put the Dutch ahead in the 19th and Tomasson scored two minutes later to make it 2-0. Fredi Bobic got Stuttgart back into the game with a goal in the 31st but Tomasson scored again a minute later.

Notorious Dutch fans tore down one of the fences separating the stands from the field. Several fans were arrested, while one security guard was carried off injured. His condition was not immediately known. Riot police ringed off the section of the stands filled with Dutch fans.

Fearing clashes, German authorities sent 1,000 policemen and 500 security guards to the match.

In Birmingham, English league leaders Aston Villa survived 3-2 against Norway's Stromsgodset. Anders Michelsen (21st) and Christer George (23rd) scored for the Norwegians, but Villa rallied with three late goals from Gary Charles (83rd) and Darius Vassell with two goals in injury time.

In Bratislava, Slovakia, Czech-born Patrick Berger – with friends in the stands – scored in the 18th for Liverpool on a free kick from 30 meters. Karlheinz Riedle made it 2-0 on a close-in header in the 23rd and Michael Owen capped it off, scoring in the 59th for a 3-0 Liverpool victory and a comfortable edge for the second leg.

In Belgrade, Yugoslavia, Red Star Belgrade scored twice in the first 12 minutes and dominated only to see Metz score in the final minute, leaving the Yugoslav team with a slim 2-1 win.

Perica Ognjenovic scored in the third minute from six meters and Goran Drulic made it 2-0 in the 12th from nearly the same spot.

The young, inexperienced Red Star team dominated most of the match and Metz, which has not scored a goal in the first five rounds in the French league, finally broke through when Bruno Rodriguez scored in the 90th.

In Warsaw, Poland, Monaco – semifinalists in last year's Champions Cup – got three second-half goals to win 3-1. Lodz took the lead in the 10th on Piotr Matys' goal. Monaco equalized on a own goal in the 59th by Witold Bendkowski. David Trezeguet made it 2-1 on a penalty in the 69th and Croatian international Robert Spehar added the clincher in the 84th.

Monaco is unbeaten this season and beat league champion Lens 2-0 last week.

Yesterday's UEFA Cup matches involving British teams:

Leeds (England) 1, Maritimo, (Portugal) 0 (Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink 84).

Blackburn Rovers (England) 0, Olympique Lyon (France) 1 (Jacek Bak 86).

Aston Villa (England) 3, Stromsgodset (Norway) 2 (Villa - Gary Charles 83, Darius Vassell 90, 90, Stromsgodset - Anders Michelsen 21, Christer George 23.

1FC Kosice (Slovakia) 0, Liverpool (England) 3 (Patrik Berger 18, Karlheinz Riedle 23, Michael Owen 59).

ENGLISH LEAGUE CUP

Results of second round, first leg matches played yesterday: Barnsley 3, Reading 0; Blackpool 2, Tranmere 1; Bolton Wanderers 3, Hull City1; Bourne-mouth 1, Wolverhampton Wanderers 1; Brentford 2, Tottenham Hotspur 3; Bury 3, Crystal Palace 0; Fulham1, Southampton 1; Halifax Town 1, Bradford City2; Huddersfield Town 1, Everton 1; Ipswich Town 2, Luton Town 1; Leyton Orient 1, Nottingham Forest 5; Macclesfield 0, Birmingham City 3; Northampton 2, West Ham United 0; Portsmouth 2, Wimbledon 1; Sheffield United 2, Grimsby Town 1; Sunderland 3, Chester 0.

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